

Pope John Paul II to be beatified May 1

In in this Feb. 17, 2004 file photo, Pope John Paul II breaks into a long laugh at the Vatican. The pope has approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession and set May 1 as the date for the beloved pontiff to be beatified. Pope Benedict XVI declared in a decree Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, that the cure of a French nun who suffered from Parkinson's disease was miraculous, the last step needed for the beatification.

Associated Press
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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Saturday, January 15, 2011

RIOT IN TUNISIA

President driven from power, PM in charge



Demonstrators hold placards reading "Ben Ali get out" in Tunis, Friday, Jan. 14, 2011. Thousands of angry demonstrators marched through Tunisia's capital Friday, demanding the resignation of the country's autocratic leader a day after he appeared on TV to try to stop deadly riots that have swept the North African nation.

Associated Press
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Obama to allow travel to Cuba

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — President Barack Obama plans to loosen Cuban travel policy to allow students and church groups to go to the communist country, the administration announced Friday.

Students seeking academic credit and churches traveling for religious purposes will be able to go to Cuba.

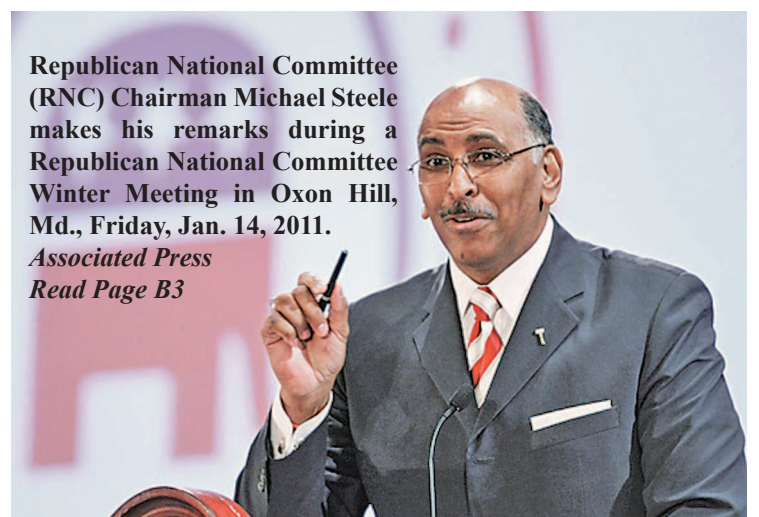
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GOP ousts Steele, picks Priebus to head party

Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Michael Steele makes his remarks during a Republican National Committee Winter Meeting in Oxon Hill, Md., Friday, Jan. 14, 2011.

Associated Press
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OBAMA

Continued from Front Page

The plan will also let any American send as much as \$500 every three months to Cuban citizens who are not part of the Castro administration and are not members of the Communist Party.

Also, more airports will be allowed to offer charter service. Right now, only three airports in Miami, Los Angeles and New York City can offer authorized charters to Cuba. That will be expanded to any international airport with proper customs and immigration facilities as long as a licensed travel agency asks to run charters from the airport.

The White House press office sent out a release saying Obama had directed the changes, which do not need congressional approval. They will be put in place within two weeks.

Changes Obama made last year already increased Cuban-Americans' ability to visit family and send money to relatives. The changes are similar to the travel policies under President Bill Clinton.

"Loosening these regulations will not help foster a pro-democracy environment in Cuba. These changes will not aid in ushering in respect for human rights. And they certainly will not help the Cuban people free

themselves from the tyranny that engulfs them," said U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., and the House Foreign Affairs Committee chair. "These changes undermine U.S. foreign policy and security objectives and will bring economic benefits to the Cuban regime."

Sen. Bill Nelson's office earlier confirmed the changes after the State Department briefed him on them, but Nelson was traveling and couldn't be reached for comment on the plans.

Pepe Hernandez, head of the moderate Cuban-American National Foundation, called the changes very positive, most importantly the decision to allow all Americans to send money to Cubans.

"It's going to help the interaction between regular Cubans and U.S. citizens, it's going to help Cuban people inside the island to gain independence from the Cuban government, especially now that roughly a million will be without jobs," he said referring to Raul Castro's decision to reduce the government workforce.

Hernandez said the Cuban government would get some benefit from the remittances, but that he could live with that because Cuban citizens, particularly dissidents, would now have another source of support. □



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U.S. BRIEFS

Schwarzenegger says governorship cost him \$200 million

VIENNA — Serving as California governor cost Arnold Schwarzenegger at least \$200 million, the bodybuilding star turned actor and politician told a newspaper in his native Austria, insisting “it was more than worth it.”

Counting expenses and lost income from acting in Hollywood films, “in all it is probably more than \$200 million,” he told Krone when asked how much his two terms in Sacramento had cost. “But I’m not sorry. It was more than worth it,” he said.

“What was much worse was the damage my time as governor did to the family. There is a lot there that needs to be repaired,” he said, recalling the many Sunday evenings when his wife, Maria, and children broke out in tears at his heavy work schedule. “We hate your job,” Schwarzenegger quoted family members as saying during his early years as governor when he would leave his Los Angeles home every Monday morning for the capital, Sacramento, and not return until the end of the week.

“It was heartbreaking every time,” said Schwarzenegger, a Republican who served as governor from 2003 until early this month. “In my second term of office, I did better. I tried to fly home every evening.” □

Man of stalking Kennedy granddaughter

NEW YORK — A man under arrest on charges he was stalking the late President John F. Kennedy’s granddaughter will appear in court next week, prosecutors said.

Naeem Ahmed, 38, is accused of stalking Tatiana Schlossberg, the daughter of Caroline Kennedy, the late president’s daughter. A criminal complaint filed by Manhattan prosecutors outlined many attempts Ahmed made at contacting Schlossberg, often sending her flowers, balloons or disturbing notes.

On one occasion, prosecutors said Ahmed sent Schlossberg an e-mail message saying: “dearest, please, don’t involve anyone else in this matter at this time. We can talk and solve all family matters by ourselves.” In February, around Valentine’s day, Ahmed sent an electronic card saying “my Dearest Hunny Bunny! Have A Happy Valentine’s Day. Do I love you? Yes I do. Do you? Truly Yours, Yours Hubby, Naeem.”

The complaint reported Schlossberg’s father Edwin Schlossberg as saying the messages “caused him significant annoyance, alarm and concern for the physical health and safety of his daughter and family.” Ahmed faces two counts of aggravated harassment in the second degree and one count of stalking in the fourth degree -- all misdemeanors.

His court appearance is set for January 21, and he was being detained pending \$25,000 bail. □

Bronx woman arrested for illegal breast enlargements

NEW YORK — A New York City woman was arrested on Friday on charges that she performed illegal breast and buttocks enhancement procedures in her home, sometimes charging more than \$1,000 for injections of liquid silicone.

According to court documents filed in Manhattan Federal Court, Whalesca Castillo imported liquid silicone from her native Dominican Republic for her underground practice at her home in the Bronx. □

Republicans pick Wisconsin’s Prieus to head party

LIZ SIDOTI

AP National Political Writer

OXON HILL, Maryland (AP) — The national Republican Party, coming off huge election victories but facing a \$22 million debt and an internal war, ousted chairman Michael Steele Friday and chose Wisconsin party chief Reince Prieus to lead in the run-up to the 2012 presidential race.

The embattled Steele, the party’s first African-American chairman, dropped his re-election bid halfway through the balloting when it became clear he could not win another two-year term after a first marked by verbal missteps and financial woes.

“We have to get on track. And together we can defeat Barack Obama in 2012,” Prieus, the chairman of the Wisconsin Republican Party, said in a brief victory speech, pleading for unity within the fractured 168-member Republican National Committee. “We all recognize that there’s a steep hill here ahead of us, and the only way that we’ll be able to move forward is if we’re all together.”

A former top lieutenant to Steele, Prieus promised to hire top-notch staff, restructure the organization and put it on solid financial footing so the next Republican presidential nominee will be prepared to take on Obama.

For the next two years, Prieus in his role as RNC chairman will serve as the top spokesman promoting the party’s agenda and countering Democrats, raise money to help Republicans and improve a get-out-the-vote effort that critics say languished under



The new elected Republican National Committee (RNC) Reince Prieus holds up a gavel after winning the post during the Republican National Committee Winter Meeting, Friday, Jan. 14, 2011 in Oxon Hill, Md. Prieus was elected after seven rounds of voting, beating four other candidates, including outgoing chairman Michael Steele.

Steele.

Most urgently, the new chairman must retire an RNC debt of about \$22 million owed to vendors and banks, as well as lure back demoralized donors who became so frustrated with Steele’s management that they sent their dollars elsewhere or didn’t open their wallets at all last year. The party had only about \$1 million cash on hand at year’s end.

Prieus also will have to figure out how to navigate a Republican civil war in which conservatives and tea party disciples are trying to pull the party further to the right, to the chagrin of moderates and some longtime establishment leaders.

The favorite heading into Friday’s balloting, Prieus led the field through seven rounds of voting. Steele quit after the fourth round. Ann Wagner, a former Missouri state Republican chair, abandoned her bid a few rounds later. Maria Cino, a New York

native and a veteran party operative who served in President George W. Bush’s administration, and Saul Anuzis, a former chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, stayed on the ballot until the end.

“Despite the noise, despite the difficulties, we won” in November, Steele said, noting huge gains that included the Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives.

“We must go forward, and we must win. We fired (Nancy) Pelosi. Let’s take the Senate. Let’s take the White House.”

A telegenic though gaffe-prone party leader, Steele had argued that he should be re-elected because of the Republicans’ record of coast-to-coast victories. However, Republican operatives had formed a network of outside groups that adopted traditional national party functions out of a concern about the RNC’s ability under Steele to raise money and deploy resources to key races. □

Imam leaving NY mosque project near Sept. 11 site



NEW YORK- the imam and his wife behind a controversial plan to build a Muslim cultural center and mosque near the site of New York's September

11 attack are stepping down as leaders of the project, the center said Friday.

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf and Daisy Khan had become the public faces of the project, which they described as a cultural center open to everyone, as opposition to the project swelled last year from critics who said its location was insensitive.

The proposed 13-story, \$100 million center called Park51 could be years away from completion. It would be two blocks from "Ground Zero," where

the September 11, 2001, hijacked plane attacks toppled the Twin Towers killing nearly 3,000.

"Imam Feisal and Daisy Khan will not be speaking on behalf of Park51, nor will they be raising funds for the project," Park51 said in a statement.

Rauf will remain on the center's board of directors, it said.

Rauf has embarked on a U.S. speaking tour in which he intends to correct what he considers misperceptions about his aims and about Muslims in general. □



Man charged with death threats to U.S. regulators

NEW YORK – A New York money manager with a long history of legal battles with the government has been charged with threatening to kill 47 U.S. officials, including the nation's top securities and commodities regulators.

Vincent McCrudden, 49, last month allegedly posted online an "execution list" naming officials, including Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Mary Schapiro and Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman Gary Gensler.

Federal prosecutors said the threat came shortly after the CFTC brought an enforcement action accusing the former commodities trader and two of his companies with operating unregistered investments.

McCrudden threatened officials at the SEC, CFTC, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the National Futures Association, authorities said.

"Go buy a gun, and lets get to work in taking back our country from these criminals," McCrudden allegedly wrote, in a statement calling for the four regulators to be abolished. "I will be the first one to lead by example."

The arrest comes amid heightened concern for the safety of public officials after last Saturday's mass shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and others in Tucson, Arizona. Six people died, including federal judge John Roll.

"Threats of death and violence against federal officials and employees for executing their duties are simply unacceptable," said Lanny Breuer, assistant attorney general of the Department of Justice's criminal division, in a statement.

LAWYER SAYS DEFENDANT NOT GUILTY

McCrudden has worked on Wall Street for more than 20 years, specializing in commodities, derivatives and foreign exchange, according to his biography on the website of his company, Alnbri Management LLC.

The biography also said he has "spent the past 13 years and counting combating a colluded Government attempt to discredit and harass Mr. McCrudden through repeated bogus procedures." McCrudden also was an amateur boxer and played professional soccer in the now-defunct North American Soccer League, the biography said.

The government said McCrudden, of Dix Hills, New York, has been living for the last few months in Singapore.

He was arrested on Thursday at Newark-Liberty International Airport and scheduled to appear in a Long Island federal court on Friday. The defendant faces two counts of transmitting death threats, each punishable by up to five years in prison. □



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English necessary, Spanish a plus

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U.S. to end "virtual fence" project on Mexican border

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama's administration on Friday canceled the troubled "virtual fence" project that was meant to better guard stretches of the U.S. border with Mexico and will replace it with other security measures.

The project, begun in 2006 and run by Boeing Co, has cost about \$1 billion and was meant to pull together video cameras, radar, sensors and other technologies to catch illegal immigrants and smugglers trying to cross the porous border.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said commercially available surveillance systems, unmanned aerial drones, thermal imaging and other equipment will be used instead, key suggestions made by critics of the Boeing SBInet program.

"This new strategy is tailored to the unique needs of each border region, providing faster deployment of technology, better coverage, and a more effective balance between cost and capability," she said in a statement.

A Boeing representative had no immediate comment.

The Obama administration has been under intense pressure to beef up security to stem the flow of illegal immigrants flooding across the U.S.-Mexico border as well as halt the smuggling of drugs and weapons.

Last year Obama signed a \$600 million bill to fund some 1,500 new Border Patrol agents, customs inspectors and law enforcement officials along the border, as well as pay for two more unmanned drones.

Additionally, he ordered some 1,200 National Guard troops to the southwest border to help with security.

The SBInet project has faced setbacks, missed deadlines and cost overruns. The future of the project has been in doubt for some time after bipartisan criticism by lawmakers and also from Napolitano.

'FAR WISER APPROACH'

An assessment of the Boeing program released by the Department of Homeland Security found that \$1 billion was spent to cover just 53 miles in Arizona. The new approach should cost less than \$750 million to cover the rest of Arizona's border, some 323 miles, DHS said. "The department's decision to use technology based on the particular security needs of each

segment of the border is a far wiser approach, and I hope it will be more cost effective," said Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman.

While other lawmakers also hailed the end to SBInet, the Republican chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee expressed concern that there would be further delays in beefing up security along the border.

"The Obama administration must promptly present the people of this country with a comprehensive plan to secure our borders, incorporating the necessary staffing, fencing, and technology," said Representative Peter King.

The market for hi-tech border solutions is worth billions of dollars and the competition is fierce.

Other firms active on the border include General Atomics, whose unmanned Predator B surveillance drone is used to scour stretches of the U.S. borders and coastlines for intruders. Other firms in the market include defense and homeland security contractor Raytheon and Arizona-based ICx Technologies, which develop and market high-tech detection and surveillance systems with border security uses.

"There were things that (SBInet) did right, and things that it did wrong, but one of the concerns was always that this was more of a gimmick than substance.

By pulling it, that tends to reinforce that impression," said Steven Camarota, research director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a think-tank.

The Boeing project has been on the chopping block for some time. Napolitano last year pulled \$50 million of funding for it that was included in the massive economic stimulus package and she froze other funds for it pending a review.

She said in March that the money would instead be used to buy existing technologies like thermal imaging devices and ultra-light plane detection systems, among other things. The U.S. border with Mexico has been a key route for smuggling weapons and drugs. Despite efforts by authorities on both sides to crack down, drug cartels have waged a fierce and violent battle to protect their operations and business. □



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93-year-old organized crime figure sentenced to prison



NEW YORK – A 93-year-old leader of one New York's most famous organized crime families was sentenced to eight years in prison on Friday on racketeering charges.

John "Sonny" Franzese was convicted in federal court in July for shaking down businesses such as the Hustler and Penthouse strip clubs for money.

Franzese was the underboss of the Colombo family, one of New York City's notorious five major organized crime syndicates, according to court documents.

Franzese often bragged about killing at least 60 people in his lifetime and partying with celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, court records said.

Franzese's family urged Judge Brian Cogan to reconsider the eight-year sentence, citing Franzese's age.

"As a family man, my father is gentle and loving to all of us," son Carmine Franzese wrote to the judge. "At this late stage of his life, the grand- and great-grandchildren have been positively affected by his presence. They love and miss him as we all do and pray for fair consideration on your part."

Another son, John Franzese Jr., testified against him during the trial. The elder Franzese got his son to carry out extortion bids and, in one audio recording used in the trial, could be heard instructing him how to get money from a victim.

"If he don't give it to you, you leave him on the floor," Franzese said in the recording.

Defense attorney Richard Lind said he intends to appeal the sentencing and declined to comment further. The U.S. Attorney's office declined to comment on the sentencing. □

Police respond to San Diego school after threat

SAN DIEGO – Police responded to a San Diego area high school on Friday after reports of a possible shooting threat, authorities said, and a suspect was taken into custody.

There was no immediate indication that shots had been fired at Helix High School in the San Diego suburb of La Mesa.

A suspect was taken into custody, said Doug Tyler, a receptionist at the Grossmont Union High School District. Tyler offered no further details.

"A threat to the campus of a possible shooting was phoned in. Students are in secure campus mode while police investigate the potential threat," The La Mesa Police Department said in a statement posted on its website.

A statement on the high school's website said it had "gone to a secure campus" due to criminal activity in the area and was working with the La Mesa Police Department.

The statement asks parents and visitors not to come



onto campus until further notice. Helix High School is an independent charter school with more than 2,300

students that counts actor Dennis Hopper and former Los Angeles Lakers star Bill Walton as alumni. □

Mother charged in death of baby while she played on Facebook

FORT LUPTON, Colo. – A mother who told police her 13-month-old son drowned in the bathtub while she was playing a game on Facebook has been arrested on suspicion of child abuse resulting in death, authorities said on Friday.

Shannon Johnson, 34, is being held on a \$100,000 bond, Jennifer Finch, spokeswoman for the Weld County District Attorney's Office, told Reuters.

When police responded to Johnson's home after the boy died at a Denver-area hospital last September, Johnson said she frequently let the boy bathe alone because he was "independent" and she "didn't want him to be known as a mama's boy," according to an affidavit filed with the arrest

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Johnson said she was on Facebook playing a game and checking in with friends, police said. When she didn't hear any sounds from the boy after several minutes she checked on the boy and found him slumped over in the bath tub. □

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Heidi Michiels named
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L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House names new GM

ORANJESTAD - L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House recently announced the appointment of Heidi Michiels to the position of the restaurant's General Manager.

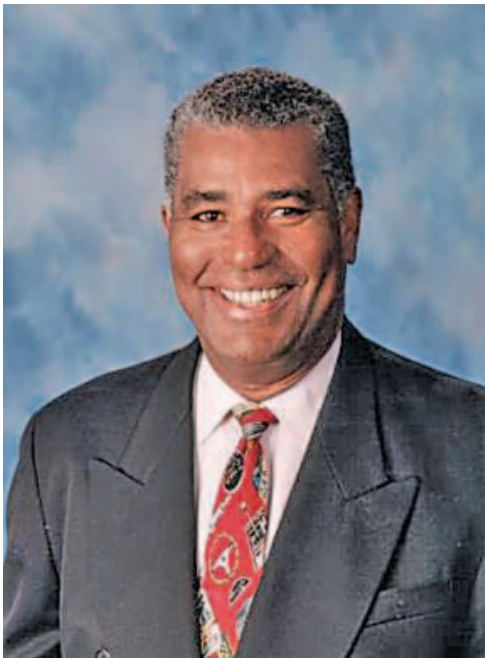
Originally from Belgium, Heidi has been living and working on Aruba for the past 10 years. She developed her culinary expertise while contributing her talents to various prestigious local eateries, such as the now defunct, but much-appreciated, Le Dome, and the popular Fishes & More where she spent seven exciting and satisfying years, the last ones as the restaurant's manager.

On her quest for personal career development she recently moved on to manage L.G. Smith's, a restaurant which brings mouthwatering American Steakhouse fare and an extensive international wine list to the heart of Oranjestad.

Heidi's first night at L.G. Smith's at the beginning of December 2010, heralded the start of the high season and she was plunged, body & soul, into the rush of holiday parties and special events. "It was my baptism in fire," she banters, but as a practiced food and beverage executive she skillfully guided her professional staff of fifteen through peak times and was rewarded with highly satisfied guests and very complimentary comment cards.

Continued on Page A11

Aruban delegation heads to Caribbean Marketplace



Jamaica's Minister of Tourism Edmund said the status of the tourism industry worldwide coupled with the current economic climate demands new creative thinking and a new strategy to cope with the ever increasing challenges.

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica – Jamaica is looking to outshine its last hosting of Caribbean Marketplace in 2005, and has assembled a top quality entertainment lineup for the opening and closing nights of this year's event, to be held at the newly

constructed Montego Bay Convention Centre from January 16-18, 2011.

The opening night's entertainment on Sunday, January 16, is expected to showcase the island's musical genius from east to west and will feature the likes of Montego Bay based female vocalist Karen Smith, as well as the DePass Jazz Trio, comprising Kingsley DePass (violin), Stephen DePass (electric bass) and Jermaine Webb (keyboards).

The lineup will also include the Jolly Boys, a mento band from Port Antonio, which has been attracting worldwide attention since their reemergence on the musical scene. Their new album "Great Expectation" is due to be released in April. The Jamaica Military Band will round out the opening night entertainment package on Sunday.

"We anticipate a stellar performance from a number of top entertainers across the island who will showcase the best of Jamaican entertainment during Caribbean Marketplace 2011.

Jamaica's hosting of the event in 2005 was hailed as the best ever, and we are excited to continue the tradition and make this year the best yet," said Jamaica's Director of Tourism John Lynch.

A Jamaica Night party, which is expected

to bring the curtains down on Caribbean Marketplace on Tuesday, January 18, at the Montego Bay Convention Centre has also been organized. Reggae singer/songwriter Etana whose sophomore album Free Expressions is due to be released next month as well as Tarrus Riley and his Black Soil band will also entertain the delegates. The closing night party will also feature celebrity DJ Bambino of ZIP FM. Renowned ska, calypso and soca band, Byron Lee's Dragonaires, will headline the closing night festivities.

Byron Lee's Dragonaires played a pioneering role in introducing the world to the eclectic and invigorating rhythms of Caribbean music, and was also instrumental in introducing carnival to Jamaica. The band has provided backing to visiting American performers including Harry Belafonte, Chuck Berry, The Drifters, and Sam Cooke. In 1961, Byron Lee's Dragonaires received a major break when they performed as the hotel band in the first James Bond film, Dr. No. The group, now performing without their founder, the late Byron Lee, is celebrated for hit songs that include Tiny Winey, Dumplings and Jamaican Ska. □

Lawyer says

Van der Sloot should be free pending trial

Joran van der Sloot's Peruvian lawyer says authorities there should formally interrogate his client...or set him free.

The Dutchman has been imprisoned in Peru's Castro Castro prison for nine months on charges he killed 21 year old student Stephanie Flores.

Her body was found in van der Sloot's Lima hotel room. Although he later said he confessed under duress and false promises to be returned to his country, he told Peruvian authorities he killed Flores when she found material relating to Natalee Holloway on his laptop computer.

Holloway disappeared on a 2005 trip to Aruba with classmates from Mountain Brook High School. She was last seen leaving a nightclub with van der Sloot. He was questioned several times by Aruban authorities but never charged in her disappearance. Flores body was found in van der Sloot's hotel room five years to the day of Natalee's disappearance.

Van der Sloot has since appealed to have his confession thrown out claiming police irregularities, coercion and the lack of a qualified Dutch language translator.

A ruling on that appeal is still pending. Under Peruvian law, van der Sloot can be held 18 months but according to Radio Netherlands Worldwide lawyer Max Altez is not confident that his client will be questioned within the statutory period of custody, which is limited to 18 months.



The lawyer is blaming Peru's legal authorities for not providing a Dutch-Spanish interpreter, saying it is not up to him to arrange one.

The Dutch embassy told Altez that they are not entitled to assign an interpreter to the case either.

Stephanie Flores father Riccardo rejected the lawyer's demands. "The murderer has not said anything up to now, so how can he have the tenacity to demand that he's released?" □

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Sunset wedding for New York couple

John & Maureen celebrate love with marriage



PALM BEACH – John Hartley and Maureen Byrnes of Manorville, N.Y. are proud to announce their wedding on January 13th, 2011 on Palm Beach at the Radisson Resort. Eighteen years ago to this date, John first told Maureen that he loved her. They have been to Aruba four times and have chosen this romantic and very beautiful island to celebrate this very special occasion.

The Beach Blessing was officiated by Rev. Robert



Gibson and coordinated by the Radisson Resort

Wedding Coordinator Lisa Damerman. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro





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U.S. Consulate General Organizes Anti-Drugs Lecture Students

U.S. Vice Consul Winifred Hofstetter and Drug Enforcement Administration Country Attaché Micheal Rzepczynski held student visa and anti-drug presentations for students on Aruba's sister island St. Maarten.

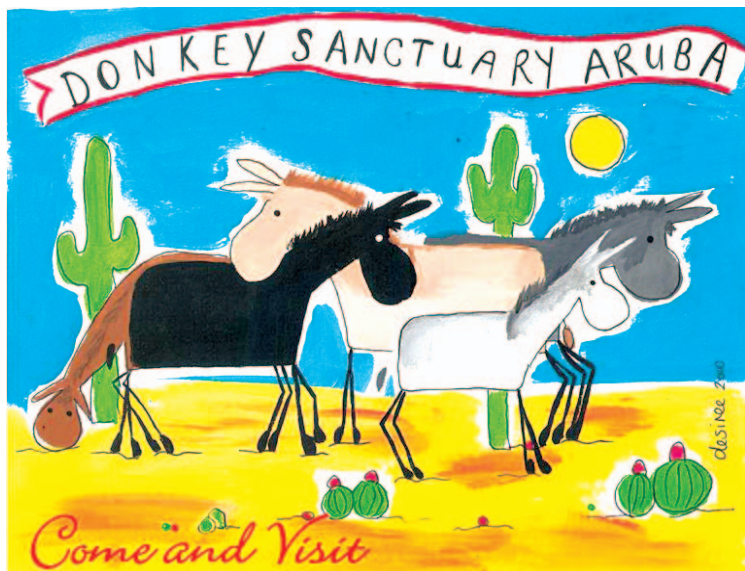
Vice Consul Hofstetter presented an overview of the student visa process for the United States, spoke about documents and materials needed, and gave information about completing the DS-160 online visa application.

Over 671,000 international students studied in the U.S. in 2009. The U.S. offers schools to appeal to a variety of wants and needs.

Educational institutions include small, specialized colleges and large university campuses with programs ranging from undergraduate, graduate and beyond all across the United States. The Consulate General in Curacao offers visa interviews to prospective students who meet the qualifications to interview there.

DEA Country Attaché Rzepczynski said educating future students about the dangers of drug abuse is a priority for the governments of the United States and St. Maarten.

The presentation took place Thursday, January 6, in Philipsburg, organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, with the assistance of and Mr. Quincy Harrigan and Ms. Irene Gaari. The Vice Consul would like to thank all individuals involved in organizing and attending the presentations. □



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Dispite the failing economy, Aruba is on the rise!

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's travel and tourism industry is going from strength to strength with news that the number of visitors from the UK, one of its key source markets, increased by more than 26 percent in 2010.

According to the latest available figures, from January to December 2010 Aruba saw a 26.3 per cent year-on-year increase in visitor numbers from the UK (14,539 as opposed to 11,512 in the previous year). This comes on top of another record year, as in 2009 UK visitors to Aruba went up by 28.3 per cent, exceeding for the first time 10,000 in a single year. The Aruba Tourism Authority anticipates that it will surpass the 15,000 mark in 2011.

For this year the Aruba Tourism Authority's UK office is implementing a £300k advertising campaign to further raise the profile of the island among UK



consumers and to continue to increase the number of visitors.

Building on the last two years' highly successful promotions,

the new campaign introduces new visuals and branding but keeps the eye-catching 'Oooh! factor' slogan.

For the first time ever,

the campaign will include supersides on London buses, while the island will also have a presence on the London Underground, as well as

125 Aruba branded taxis driving around London and Manchester. □

~ Photo by Julia Renfro

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Rates per boat

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Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

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Driftwood Restaurant

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Tel: (297) 583 2515

www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Radisson launches new Bingo at The Casino!



PALM BEACH – The Casino at the Radisson Aruba, Resort, Casino & Spa will be hosting its first weekly Bingo Tournament today, offering up a minimum of \$1,300 in prizes. The Radisson Casino Bingo

Tournament will take place every Saturday, with the action beginning at 2 pm. The tournament will offer up a total of 8 games, plus 1 progressive game. Bingo cards are available before the games begin at



\$10 for 4 cards and \$5 for a progressive card. Bingo lovers will also enjoy attractive door prizes, snacks and soft drinks. The casino is also adding a special exciting feature to its gaming floor: the chance to win a Suzuki SX4. Players will receive a raffle ticket to win a brand new Suzuki SX4 with every hand paid jackpot of \$50 and more!

Photos show past lucky winners at The Casino at the Radisson, proudly posing with their cash prizes. □



NEW GM

Continued from Page A7

Born into a family of food experts, Heidi practically grew up on a restaurant floor helping her parents direct a lunch and dinner establishment in Brugge, Belgium. She later went on to her town's hotel and tourism school. She travelled extensively upon graduation checking Europe and the Far East out, then visiting NY and falling in love with the city. As the General Manager of L.G. Smith's her plan is to teach her staff everything she knows and continue to nurture the restaurant's culinary excellence and high standards of service, combined with guest interaction.

L.G. Smith's offers juicy cuts of aged, USDA-inspected Certified Angus Beef, reasonably priced and sizzling

hot from the grill paired with exquisitely prepared appetizers from both land and sea and tantalizing desserts including the Signature Mascarpone Tart. The menu says Heidi, is compiled of everyone's favorites and L.G. Smith's return business is significant, as patrons come back several nights in a row, especially for the Sumptuous Sundowner, a complete 3 course meal for two.

L.G. Smith's is blessed

with sweeping views of the downtown marina and the bustling boulevard below, and enjoys a rich dark wood décor with natural stone and Murano glass, lending contemporary flair to superb dining. Open nightly for dinner from 5:30pm to 11pm, while the Midnight Grill Lounge operates from 11pm to 6am. L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House is located right downtown next to the Crystal Casino. □

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Saturdays at 7:00 PM Freeze out \$150

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(Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)

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Bad News for the Western World

WASHINGTON, DC – The global economy is emerging from the financial crisis as a patient might emerge from a sickness, with some signs of recovery but other causes for concern. This week, the patient received comprehensive health evaluations from the World Economic Forum and the World Bank. The prognosis is rather gloomy, particularly for developed countries.

The WEF warns that a world racked by economic disparities and weak global governance and “in no position to face new shocks” confronts a litany of risks including currency and commodity volatility, growing pension liabilities, and fiscal crises stemming from the tension between increasingly wealthy and influential emerging economies and debt-saddled advanced economies. The report adds that a “rapidly rising global population and growing prosperity are putting unsustainable pressures on resources,” with demand for water, food, and energy expected to rise by 30 to 50 percent over the next two decades.

The World Bank, meanwhile, predicts that “high-income” countries like the U.S. will grow by under three percent through 2012 while developing countries will grow at more than double that rate, though they face risks like tense European financial markets and rising food prices. Overall, the report indicates that global economic growth will slow down in 2011.

What should we take away from the reports?

Most Tragic Problem Is Food and Water, states Douglas McIntyre at 24/7 Wall St, in reference to the WEF report:

Crop production cannot keep up with the predicted rise in demand. The supply of fresh water around the world cannot be increased by the levels which are necessary to offer every thirsty person relief. The result to this broad problem is likely to be a rise in famine that is so great that it challenges the imagination. Some countries like the US may offer aid and food, but even America will find the needs of the world's hungry beyond its means. And, the US economy may be crippled enough so that the generosity it has shown in decades past cannot be renewed.

Developing World Will Lead Growth In 2011, says Eva Pereira at Forbes: “It once was the case that when the first world caught a cold, the developing world caught the flu. Those days might be over as developing countries have managed to re-orient more of their production toward their domestic market in the wake of the downturn.”

Yes, Economic Power Is Shifting East, declares Larry Elliott at The Guardian. The World Bank report reveals that most developing countries have recovered from the financial crisis, he notes. □



Health Care Repeal Debate Back On

WASHINGTON, DC – It didn't take long for the debate to be rescheduled. Members of Congress were expected to begin debate this week over a repeal of Obama's health care reform law. In response to last weekend's shooting in Arizona, the discussion was postponed, but House Republicans confirmed today that the show will go on next week.

Many Congress members are particularly passionate about health care reform. Some Democrats have pushed to hold out on igniting the potentially heated debate until even later, as Saturday's violence has prompted a call for more civil political discourse. Though no official changes have been made to the bill's current controversial title, “Repealing the Job Killing Health Care Law Act,” Greg Sargent reports that Democrats will begin referring to the bill as “The Patient's Rights Repeal Act.” This is presumably to “emphasize what the repeal would take away from you--and to position the plight of the patient in the center of this battle.”

Commentators contemplate the debate through the lens of Congress's new-found “civility” and offer advice for how the debate should be carried out. Does the Health Care Law Really ‘Kill’ Jobs? As politicians attempt to refrain from using aggressive rhetoric, some question whether “Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act” is too violent a title for what the Republicans are trying to accomplish. The Washington Post's Ezra Klein agrees that the name of the bill should be changed, but clarifies, “my problem with the modifier ‘job-killing’ isn't that it's uncivil, though perhaps it is. It's that it's untrue.” Klein explains that the name comes from a misinterpreted Congressional Budget Office Report that says the law will cause a reduction in labor, meaning, “it's not that employers will fire workers. it's that potential workers particularly older ones will retire somewhat earlier.” This is not a bad thing, argues Klein. “This is true for anything that increases financial resources. One effect of

tax cuts, for instance, is that people work less because their income is more adequate to their needs. When you make people richer, they find they have more choices. That's a good thing.” Same Message, Different Words Politico's Jake Sherman takes note of Congressional Republicans' new tone in pushing its agenda since the Arizona shooting. But don't be fooled, warns Sherman, “Republicans are not changing a lick of substance. They're just talking about it differently.” But perhaps “talking about it differently” will be just the tactic for a successful debate. Sherman notes: But while Republicans aren't backing down on their substantive agenda, GOP leaders are making clear to their members that their rhetoric is under a microscope and they plan to reinforce that message this week at their retreat. Committee chairs have been told to alert their members that the debate should center around substance, leaving out some of the heated rhetoric that has colored the debate in the past months.

Slow Your Roll, Republicans In an op-ed contribution to The New York Times, National Review editor Ramesh Ponnuru explains that, though he believes reforming programs such as Medicare and Social Security “is vital to our nation's long-term fiscal health,” these reforms should not be first on the new Republican Congress's agenda. “Reform is impossible this year or next unless President Obama takes the lead on it,” he writes. “What's more, Republicans have no mandate for reform, and a failed attempt will only set back the cause.” Ponnuru offers some advice to the new majority: They should do more than wait: in the event of presidential inaction, reformers should blame Mr. Obama for the lack of progress and work to make entitlements a litmus-test issue in the Republican presidential primaries. The goal should be to nominate someone willing to make a strong case for reducing entitlement growth as part of a larger strategy to restore American prosperity. □

Tunisians drive leader from power in mass uprising

In March, 63 people were killed when poor villagers scrambled for free food and clothing being given away at a ceremony at a temple in Uttar Pradesh. In 2008, more than 145 people died in a stampede at a remote Hindu temple at the foothills of the Himalayas. □

Iran's nuke tour without major powers, key allies



European Union Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton, left, and Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu shake hands after a joint news conference in Istanbul, Turkey, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Ashton has met Davutoglu for talks ahead of next week's nuclear talks between Iran and world powers in Istanbul. Earlier Thursday, Davutoglu also met with Ali Bagheri, the deputy to Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, in the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Associated Press

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — A weekend tour of Iran's nuclear sites is going ahead without Russia, China, the European Union or key allies Turkey and Brazil, blunting Tehran's attempts to gain support from major powers ahead of crucial talks on its atomic activities.

Ahead of departure from Vienna to Tehran Friday evening, Iranian envoy Ali Asghar Soltanieh said that representatives of nonaligned nations, developing countries, the Arab League, Venezuela and Syria were going with him to visit Iran's central Natanz enrichment facility and its still-unfinished heavy water reactor at Arak.

"This trip will offer the most transparency" regarding Iran's nuclear program, Soltanieh told The Associated Press, adding that the diplomats would be able to see "everything they wanted."

He declined to discuss which other nations had been invited. But China and the EU have in recent days publicly declined. And diplomats familiar with the issue said Russia, Switzerland, and Turkey and Brazil had also either turned down invitations or had not responded.

The diplomats — all accredited to the International

Atomic Energy Agency, which is tasked with probing Iran's nuclear activities — spoke on condition of anonymity because their information was privileged. Soltanieh represents his country at the IAEA.

Switzerland, which has attempted to mediate between Iran and the international community, later confirmed it was not going

"We declined the invitation," President and Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey said in answer to a question from the AP. "All the like-minded (countries) declined the invitation."

With crucial talks between Iran and six world powers in Istanbul just a week away, the timing of the nuclear tour and the choice of nations invited appeared a possible attempt to weaken unity among Iran's interlocutors.

Moscow and Beijing are part of the talks. At the same time, they are generally opposed to attempts by the other four — the United States, Britain, France and Germany — to sharpen U.N. sanctions on Iran over its refusal to stop activities that could be used to make nuclear weapons.

Neither the U.S. nor the three other Western nations were invited to Iran's weekend tour.

The United States and its allies

fear that Iran is trying to make nuclear weapons, not nuclear energy, while Tehran asserts it is enriching uranium to make nuclear fuel and not weapons and says it will not negotiate over its right to enrich for peaceful uses.

Brazil and Turkey have recently emerged as important allies for Tehran in backing attempts to restart negotiations on a deal that would see Iran ship out some of its low-enriched uranium in exchange for fuel rods for a small reactor making medical isotopes.

Those talks stalled more than a year ago and the West considers them increasingly irrelevant as a way to slow Tehran's ability to make nuclear weapons by removing some material that could be enriched into weapons grade uranium.

While willing to talk about the deal at the Istanbul talks beginning next Thursday, the six powers want the discussions to focus on broader aspects of Iran's nuclear program, including its refusal to freeze enrichment despite four sets of U.N. sanctions.

Soltanieh denied the tour had been timed to sow division among the six powers, saying the visit and the Istanbul talks "had nothing to do" with each other. □

WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuelan police detain drug suspect wanted in U.S.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan police have captured a drug suspect alleged to belong to Mexico's Zetas drug gang.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement Friday that 56-year-old Gloria Rojas Valencia was detained in Caracas this week. It said she is a reputed member of the Zetas drug gang and is wanted by a U.S. court in New York for trafficking cocaine. The statement did not provide any other details.

Officials described Rojas as the partner of Colombian drug suspect Luis Frank Tello Candelo, who was captured in Venezuela last year and deported to the United States.

Traffickers regularly use Venezuela as a route for smuggling Colombian cocaine, and the Interior Ministry said the Zetas have been involved in moving drugs to Honduras and Mexico. □

Haiti police kill 1 in shootout with protesters

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian authorities say a gunbattle between police and protesters has left one man dead, shot by officers.

National police spokesman Gary Desrosiers says the violence erupted as demonstrators were setting up barricades Friday morning in Port-au-Prince.

Desrosiers said they began shooting at police, who returned fire.

He identified the dead man as one of the protesters. It was not clear whether he was among those who were firing at police.

A year after a devastating earthquake, politically fragile Haiti has recently seen riots over a presidential election marred by allegations of fraud.

On Thursday, international election observers recommended that President Rene Preval's preferred candidate be cut from a runoff. □

UK prosecutors reopen phone hacking investigation

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prosecutors said Friday that a politically sensitive investigation into phone hacking charges against one of Britain's best-selling tabloid newspapers would be reopened. Chief prosecutor Keir Starmer said that a "comprehensive assessment" of all evidence would be held to see whether new charges should be brought in the case involving The News of The World, owned by Rupert Murdoch's media company.

"The purpose of this assessment is to ascertain whether there is any material which could now form evidence in any future criminal prosecution relating to phone hacking," prosecutors said in a statement.

The criminal inquiry will focus new attention on the tabloid's sophisticated phone-tapping operation, which included hacking into cell phones used by senior aides of the royal family in order to listen to voicemail messages.

Actress Sienna Miller and other celebrities have also accused the paper of illegal hacking and harassment, leading to the recent resignation of

Ian Edmondson, a top executive.

The News of The World has been at the center of the scandal since a reporter and a private investigator employed by the title were caught illegally eavesdropping on the phones of the British royal family's entourage.

The pair were convicted in 2007, but News of the World executives have long insisted that they were the only ones responsible for the tapping operation — a claim dismissed as implausible by the paper's critics.

The issue is particularly sensitive because the tabloid's former editor, Andy Coulson, who stepped down in the wake of the scandal, now serves as British Prime Minister David Cameron's communications director.

Coulson has long insisted he knew nothing of the illegal goings-on at his paper while he was in charge. He has enjoyed Cameron's support despite the allegations. But Coulson's story has been challenged by a series of media reports. An article published in The New York Times last year quoted former News of The World reporter Sean Hoare as saying that Coulson was aware of the practice. □

Pope John Paul II moves a step closer to sainthood

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — During his 2005 funeral, crowds at the Vatican shouted for Pope John Paul II to be made a saint immediately. “Santo subito!” they chanted for one of the most important and beloved pontiffs in history. His successor heard their call. On Friday, in the fastest process on record, Pope Benedict XVI set May 1 as the date for John Paul’s beatification — a key step toward Catholicism’s highest honor and a major morale boost for a church reeling from the clerical sex abuse scandal.

He set the date after declaring that a French nun’s recovery from Parkinson’s disease was the miracle needed for John Paul to be beatified. A second miracle is needed to be canonized a saint.

Benedict himself will preside at the May 1 ceremony, which is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to Rome for a precedent-setting Mass: Never before has a pope beatified his immediate predecessor. Although the numbers may not reach the 3 million who flocked here for John Paul’s funeral, religious tour operators in his native Poland were already preparing to bus and fly in the faithful to celebrate a man many considered a saint while he was alive.

“We have waited a long time and this is a great day for us,” said Mayor Ewa Filipiak of John Paul’s hometown of Wadowice, where the faithful lit candles Friday and prayed at a chapel in the town church dedicated to John Paul.

The Rev. Pawel Danek, who runs a museum in John Paul’s family home, said Benedict had listened to the prayers.

“The Holy Father has confirmed what we all felt somehow,” he said. “For us, John Paul II’s holiness is obvious.”

Benedict put John Paul on the fast track to possible sainthood just weeks after he died, waiving the typical five-year waiting period before the process could begin. But he insisted that the investigation

into John Paul’s life be thorough to avoid any doubts about his virtues.

The beatification will nevertheless be the fastest on record, coming a little more than six years after his death and beating out Mother Teresa’s then-record beatification in 2003 by a few days. It is not without controversy, however. While John Paul himself was never accused of improprieties, he has long been accused of responding slowly when the sex abuse scandal erupted in the United States in 2002. Many of the thousands of cases that emerged last year involved crimes and cover-ups during his 26-year papacy. Critics have faulted John Paul’s overriding concern with preserving the rights of accused priests, often at the expense of victims — a concern formed in part by his experiences in communist-controlled Poland, where priests were often accused of trumped-up charges.

The most damaging case linked to John Paul concerned the Rev. Marciel Maciel, the founder of the Legionaries of Christ, a conservative order beloved by the late pope because of its orthodoxy, fundraising prowess and ability to attract priestly vocations.

Allegations that Maciel had raped young seminarians were brought by the victims to the Vatican in the 1990s, but under apparent orders from John Paul’s No. 2, a canonical trial was shelved.

Only after Benedict became pope was Maciel sanctioned in 2006; Maciel died two years later.

Despite the Maciel case, Vatican officials have said there was nothing in John Paul’s record that put his beatification into question. Vatican watchers noted on Friday that beatification isn’t a “score card” on how John Paul administered the church but rather a recognition that he led a saintly life.

Carl Anderson, head of the Knights of Columbus, one of the world’s largest Catholic fraternal service organizations, said John Paul’s life was a

model of “love, respect and forgiveness for all.”

“We saw this in the way he reached out to the poor, the neglected, those of other faiths, even the man who shot him,” Anderson said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. “He did all of this despite being so personally affected by events of the bloodiest century in history.” The Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano described his saintliness in these terms Friday: “A passionate witness to Christ from his childhood to his last breath.”

The last remaining hurdle before beatification concerned Benedict’s approval that the cure of the French nun, Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, was a miracle due to the intercession of the late pope.

The nun has said she felt reborn when she woke up two months after John Paul died, cured of the disease that had made walking, writing and driving a car nearly impossible. She and her fellow sisters of the Congregation of Little Sisters of Catholic Maternity Wards had prayed to John Paul.



In this Sept. 11, 2002 file photo, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany, left, who became the new Pope at the Vatican Tuesday April 19, 2005, is seen with late Pope John Paul II during mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. The pope has approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II’s intercession and set May 1 as the date for the beloved pontiff to be beatified. Pope Benedict XVI declared in a decree Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, that the cure of a French nun who suffered from Parkinson’s disease was miraculous, the last step needed for the beatification.

Associated Press

On Friday, Simon-Pierre said because of his defense of the John Paul was and continues the unborn and because they both to be an inspiration to her suffered from Parkinson’s. □

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In this on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011 file photo Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi listens during a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, not pictured, during the 28th government consultations of both nations at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany.

ALESSANDRA RIZZO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Prosecutors are investigating whether Premier Silvio Berlusconi paid for sex with an underage girl from Morocco and then abused his power in trying to cover up the encounters, officials said Friday. Berlusconi dismissed the case as “absurd” and said the prosecutors were just

jealous they weren’t invited to his home for dinner too; the teenager has said she dined at the premier’s Milan estate but didn’t have sex with him. “At least my lawyers are happy,” Berlusconi quipped in an audio message to his supporters late Friday. “They’re sure that with me they’ll never be out of work.” The investigation escalated a long history of accusations

Associated Press

Italy’s Silvio Berlusconi in prostitution probe

of sexual and financial impropriety aimed at the billionaire businessman, who has become Italy’s longest-serving postwar leader despite corruption trials, international gaffes and political infighting. The latest allegations come at a moment of particular vulnerability for the blunt-speaking, high-living prime minister. Berlusconi has been politically weakened in recent months by a challenge from an-ex ally, while a law shielding him from two unrelated trials in Milan was significantly watered down Thursday by a ruling of Italy’s Constitutional Court. Still, Italians have proven hard to shock, and Berlusconi inspires both loyalty and fierce opposition. A citizen group called Friday for his resignation but his supporters immediately

dismissed the allegations as a baseless, politically-driven attack.

According to a statement by Milan prosecutors, the probe is looking into whether the 74-year-old premier had sex with a 17-year-old nightclub dancer nicknamed Ruby, and then used the powers of his office inappropriately in trying to hide the encounter.

The prosecutors issued a summons Friday for Berlusconi and his lawyers to appear for questioning, the statement said. They also ordered Milan police to search the offices of various people implicated in the case, including a showgirl-turned-politician who is close to the premier.

No date was given, but the ANSA news agency said the questioning might take place next week, and that

prosecutors might seek a fast-track trial.

Berlusconi said the timing of the investigation was odd given the Constitutional Court ruling a day earlier, which he said was questionable but nevertheless confirmed the validity of the immunity law. “I frankly was expecting that they’d wait at least a week before restarting after the court’s decision,” Berlusconi said late Friday, adding that they had informed him of the investigation Monday night. “I deduced that they’re just jealous and are teasing me for not having been invited as well.”

He said he had been placed under investigation more than 100 times, been on trial in 28 cases, paid €300 million (\$400 million) in legal and other fees — and never once been convicted. □

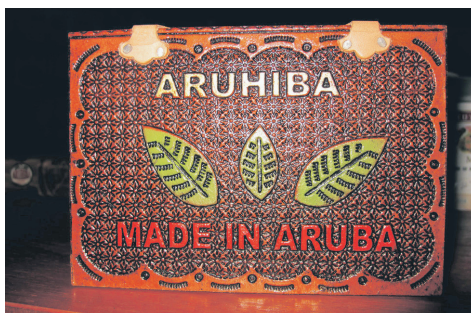
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called “Aruhiba”. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always

had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo “Aruhiba”. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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NFL Preview

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Won and done: Newton, NFL draft bound

Auburn's Cam Newton reacts after a touchdown during the first half of the BCS National Championship NCAA college football game against Oregon on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

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Saturday, January 15, 2011

AP NewsBreak:

FTC looking into helmet safety claims

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Federal Trade Commission says his agency is looking into possible action regarding safety claims made for new and reconditioned football helmets used by high school and younger players.

Chairman Jon Leibowitz made the revelation in a letter to New Mexico Democratic Sen. Tom Udall, who had requested an FTC investigation into what he called "misleading safety claims and deceptive practices."

"We agree that these are serious concerns," Leibowitz wrote, "and will determine what action by this agency may be appropriate."

In the letter, obtained Friday by The Associated Press, Leibowitz said that issues involving serious health concerns — especially those for children and young adults — are a "high priority for the commission." He said the commission would look at several factors "in determining whether to take enforcement or other action."

In his letter to the FTC this month, Udall referred to what he called "misleading safety claims used in online video advertisements for helmets," specifically citing Riddell and Schutt Sports. He said he was "troubled by misleading marketing claims by Riddell, a leading helmet maker that supplies the official helmet to the National Football League."

Continued on Page B8

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

Nadal going for 4th straight major

Spain's Rafael Nadal serves during a practice session on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Nadal is preparing for the Australian Open tennis championship which begins here Monday Jan.

Associated Press
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Al-Attiyah, Coma near victory in Dakar Rally



Spain's biker Marc Coma rides his KTM motorcycle during the 12th stage of the 2011 Argentina-Chile Dakar Rally between San Juan and Cordoba, Argentina, Friday, Jan. 14, 2011.

Associated Press

CORDOBA, Argentina (AP) — Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar drove his car and Marc Coma of Spain rode his bike without any major problems in Friday's next-to-last stage of the Dakar Rally, setting themselves up for victory on Saturday.

Al-Attiyah finished 6 minutes, 11 seconds behind the winner and defending champion Carlos Sainz of Spain to take third in the 12th stage.

Overall, Al-Attiyah leads Giniel de Villiers of South Africa by 48:21 and Sainz by 1:21:16. The three leaders all drive Volkswagens.

In bikes, Coma won the

stage, finishing 37 seconds ahead of KTM teammate Cyril Despres of France. The Spaniard leads Despres by 16:36 in the overall standings.

Saturday final stage ends in the city of Baradero, located about 120 miles northwest of Buenos Aires. The official podium ceremonies will be held Sunday in the capital, where the rally began on Jan. 1.

Al-Attiyah, who finished second last year to Sainz and is looking for his first Dakar victory, tried to keep his emotions under check.

"It really was the hardest stage of my life because I had to keep focused and not make any mistakes," Al-Attiyah said. "Sometimes I was going fast, sometimes slow, because I needed to keep my concentration and keep the same pace."

Coma, who won in 2006 and 2009, knows title No. 3 is only a day away.

"There is still a 190-kilometer stage left to race tomorrow," Coma said. "Normally there shouldn't be any complications, but we still need to race them. It's there to be done. It just shows that the route has been designed to ensure that there is suspense up to the end, so we'll just have to wait and see tomorrow."

In quads, Argentine rider Alejandro Patronelli leads overall by 58:18, ahead of countryman Sebastian Halpern.

Christophe Declerck of France won Friday's stage. Patronelli's brother, Marcos, won last year in quads.

In trucks, Vladimir Chagin of Russia won the penultimate stage and leads overall by 31:19. □

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Appleby takes early lead in Honolulu

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU (AP)—The Sony Open took a while to get started. So did Stuart Appleby. Appleby was humming along Friday on rain-soaked Waialae Country Club, no bogeys on his cards but not many birdies, either. That changed when he holed a long shot from the fairway and a long putt on the next green to finish with a 6-under 64. That gave him a one-shot lead over Justin Rose, Mark Wilson and PGA Tour rookie Nate Smith among the early starters. “Less than two hours, really went from a pretty plain round to a good round,” said Appleby, who shot 30 on the back nine.

Charles Howell III chips his ball of the rough onto the 11th green during the first round of the Sony Open, Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, in Honolulu.

The sky finally cleared along the shores east of Waikiki Beach, and while the course was still soggy from rain that washed out the opening round, it could still handle 144 players in the first full-field event of the season.

It was a different course than Appleby was used to seeing. He described it as “heavy,” with debris from being saturated the last two days, the grass thick from not being able to keep mowers on them. But it was good enough that Chris Riley, who opened with a 66, wondered if they could have played ball as down, instead of being able to lift, clean and place it in the fairways.

Appleby was among those who started his season last week on Maui, and it was a struggle. The Sony Open offers a completely different

test, minus the mountainous terrain and the severe slope on the greens with a strong grain. He felt more relaxed here, and the finish helped.

Appleby chipped in for birdie from in front of the 12th green—“sort of freshened up that par, par, par I had the first couple hours on the front nine,” he said—added a birdie on the 13th and then finished with a flourish. With a slight breeze off the Pacific, from a 163 yards away on the 16th, he hit an easy 5-iron right of the flag and was surprised to hear the cheer when it went in for an eagle.

Then came a 35-foot birdie on the 17th, and suddenly a good score turned into a great one. He played in the same group with Rose, and Appleby thought the Englishman played far better from tee to green, the difference perhaps being that Rose didn’t hole any full shots from the fairway.

Rose opened with a 75 last week and played well from there, finishing in a tie for 12th. “I didn’t panic, just really realized that it was a good week to knock off some rust and start growing some good habits,” he said. “And the week kind of evolved and I got better every day. It was nice to carry that on into this week.”

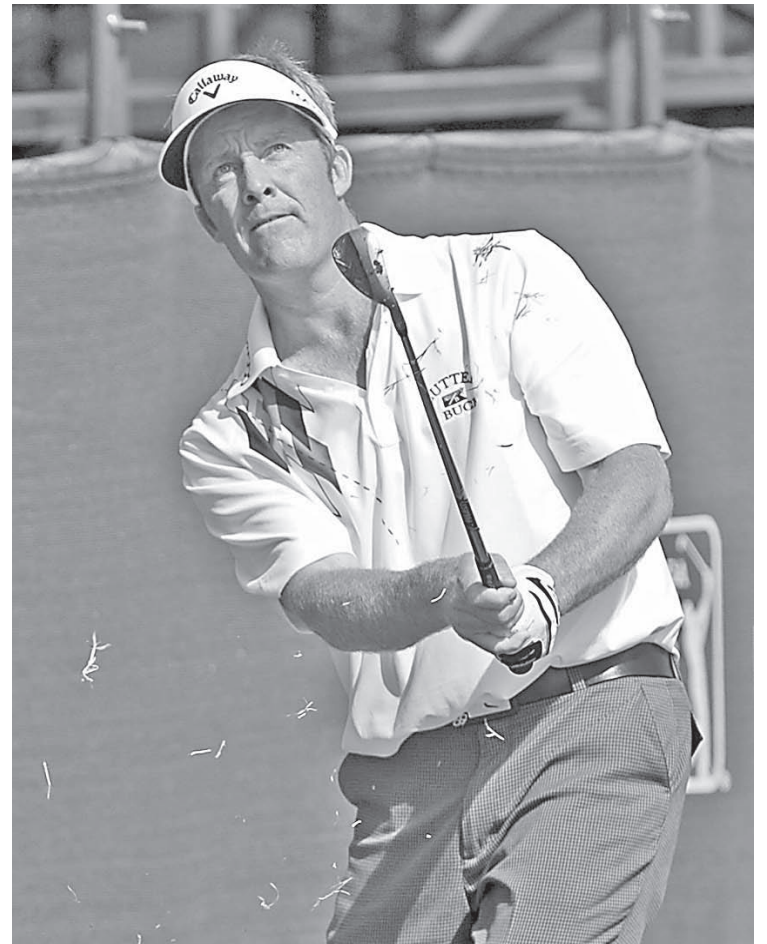
This week figures to be

different. Because an entire round was washed out, the plan is to play the second round on Saturday, followed by a 36-hole marathon on Sunday.

Chad Campbell opened with a 67, and 26 players from the morning group broke par. That included Charles Warren, who got into the Sony Open through his top-10 finish at Disney in the final tournament of the year. Warren birdied his last hole at Disney, which not only put him in Honolulu to start the year, but got him inside the top 150 on the money list to give him at least conditional status.

He promptly made three straight bogeys to start his season and was 4 over through six holes. It took him until the eighth hole to take honors from 67-year-old Dave Eichelberger, playing as local club pro for winning the Aloha Section. But Warren turned it around by playing 5 under over his last 10 holes for a 69.

Eichelberger had a 76, and that wasn’t the worst of it. Michael Thompson, one of 27 rookies at Waialae, opened with an 80. One of the veterans, Jeff Maggert, had a 75. “Almost shot my age,” said Maggert, who at 46 has been around long enough to laugh at himself. □



Stuart Appleby, of Australia, tees off on the fourth hole during the first round of the Sony Open golf tournament on Friday, Jan. 14, 2011, in Honolulu.

Associated Press

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LITTLE FOCKERS	daily: 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15		
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late show:			
NEW KIDS TURBO	daily: 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:30		NEW
matinee:	12:45 - 3:00		
late show:	11:30		
TANGLED	daily: 4:00		
matinee:	1:45		
late show:			
GULLIVER'S TRAVEL	daily: 4:30		
matinee:	12:30 - 2:30		
late show:			
HEREAFTER	daily: 5:30 - 8:15		
matinee:	12:00 - 2:45		
late show:	11:00		
LITTLE FOCKERS	daily: 5:30 - 7:45 - 10:00		
matinee:	12:30 - 3:00		
late show:	12:15		
TRUE GRIT	daily: 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:45		
matinee:	2:00		
late show:	12:15		

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Nadal going for 4th straight major at Aussie Open

JOHN PYE,
AP Sports Writer

The merits of a “Rafa Slam” versus Rocket’s Grand Slam were being debated well before Rafael Nadal arrived in Australia in pursuit of a fourth consecutive major title, something not achieved in men’s tennis since Rod Laver won all four in 1969.

Analysts such as Jim Courier and Brad Gilbert think winning the Australian Open would cap Nadal’s victories at the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year, and give the 24-year-old Spaniard at least equal status with Laver because he’s done it on three surfaces and against tougher competition.

Chief among those competitors is Roger Federer, who has won a record 16 Grand Slam tournaments but has been thwarted, by Nadal, in his own bid for four in a row.

Laver is impressed by Nadal’s run, but contends the calendar can’t be ignored.

“He’s got three under his belt, and he’s playing well,” Laver told The Associated Press. “There’s a good chance he could pull it off. But it’s not a Grand Slam, certainly. ... People will say, ‘He’s going for a Grand Slam.’ And I say, ‘No, he’s not doing that.’ That wasn’t the way this whole thing was set up.

“It starts in January and ends in September; starts with the Australian Open and ends with the U.S. Open. Still, what he’s trying to do is a great effort. It’s not a Grand Slam, but it’s a great effort. It’s uncanny that no one has put it all together and won four in a row.”

Andy Murray, the man Federer beat at Melbourne Park for the last Australian title, sees Nadal’s run differently.

“It’s incredible,” Murray said. “A lot of people are saying, ‘Well, it’s not all in the one calendar year.’ But I don’t really think that makes any difference. If you hold all four ‘Slams’ at one time, it’s an incredible achievement. Even three in a row is amazing.

“That’s what all of us are competing against. He’s one of the best players ever, if not



Spain’s Rafael Nadal, top, and Serbia’s Novak Djokovic hit up together during a practice session on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 14, 2011. Nadal and No.3 seed Djokovic are preparing for the Australian Open tennis championships which begin here on Monday Jan. 17; and Kim Clijster of Belgium, above right; reacts during the women’s final against Li Na of China at the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney, Friday, Jan. 14, 2011. Li won the match 7-6, 6-3. Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, below right, reacts to her losing a point in her match against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia during the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011.

the best, and he deserves to be No. 1 in the world, and if he does win the Australian Open — which I hope he doesn’t — then it would be incredible.

“It is already an incredible achievement for what he’s done at his age, but it would be amazing.”

Federer came close to repeating Laver’s feat in 2006 and 2007, when the Swiss player’s only Grand Slam losses were against Nadal at the French Open.

“It’s not extra pressure, for me it’s extra motivation,” Nadal said at the Qatar Open last week. “The pressure is every day to play well and keep winning matches and I don’t think (about) winning (the) Australian Open immediately.”

Federer is not ready to give up his title.

“It’s a special Australian Open with me being the defending champion,” Federer said. “Rafa going for his

fourth (Grand Slam title), so obviously the focus is going to be on the two of us. Tennis is really going to be exciting down in Australia.”

Serena Williams completed what she called her “Serena Slam” of four consecutive major titles at the 2003 Australian Open, but the woman who has won five of the last eight finals at Melbourne will be missing next week as she continues to recover from a foot injury.

In her absence, three-time U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters is shaping up as the favorite for the Australian Open title with some convincing wins at the Sydney International, where she has advanced to the final. “I don’t think about it like that at all, it’s something that is kind of put on you from the outside and it doesn’t change anything in my mind,” Clijsters said. “I am very happy with the preparation that I’ve had and have worked



“Nothing Nadal does will surprise me anymore.”

Gilbert, who has coached Agassi and Andy Roddick, said it was Nadal’s never-ending search for improvement that makes him the game’s top player at the moment.

“He’s constantly trying things. I’m not sure I’ve seen somebody in his position tweak his game as much as he has. That keeps him motivated.” Gilbert said in a telephone interview. “It’s hard to prognosticate about the tournament until you see the draw. But he’s obviously the favorite, and he should win.

“It would obviously be the greatest accomplishment in tennis since Laver, but the only difference is, when Laver won the calendar Slam in ‘69, three of the four tournaments were on grass.”

Gilbert points out that if Nadal wins four straight he will have done it on clay, grass and hard courts.

“It won’t be a calendar Slam, but it’ll be the greatest achievement that I’ve seen in tennis,” Gilbert said. “In ‘69, I was 8 years old, and I couldn’t comprehend what Laver did. There’s no taking away from what Laver did, because he did it in a calendar year. But let’s just say that this would be just off the charts. Almost unthinkable in this day and age. ...

“And potentially to do it with a guy like Federer in the mix, who’s been one of the greatest players of all time, even makes it more amazing.”

Courier, a four-time major winner who is the U.S. Davis Cup captain and has been a TV analyst and on-court presenter at the Australian Open, said a win by Nadal in Melbourne could be viewed in two ways. “I think there is something to winning all four in the same calendar year. That is the technical definition of the Grand Slam in tennis,” he said. “I think there’s also some added pressure that goes along with doing it in a calendar year, where you get the buildup post-Wimbledon and all summer, everyone thinking about it and talking about it. □

Associated Press

hard in the offseason and that’s the only thing I can do from my side.”

Caroline Wozniacki, Vera Zvonareva and Sam Stosur have started the year slowly in tuneup tournaments, while Justine Henin is still coming back from injury.

Andre Agassi, who won a career Grand Slam among his eight majors overall, made four consecutive Grand Slam finals but lost the second — at Wimbledon in 1999. A four-time winner at Melbourne Park, Agassi tipped Nadal as the favorite to win this year.

“He came off a dominating year and he took a healthy break after the U.S. Open, so he is going to be rested and confident. Federer also played fantastically at the end of the year. I think it’s a close race between these two players, but Nadal has a bigger chance now,” Agassi said at an exhibition tournament in Taiwan.

NHL Roundup

Rangers end Canucks long winning streak

NEW YORK (AP) — The Vancouver Canucks suffered their first regulation-time defeat in 18 games, beaten 1-0 by the New York Rangers in the NHL on Thursday.

The league-leading Canucks hadn't lost before overtime since Dec. 5 but came out losers this time in the only meeting of these two sides this season.

Henrik Lundqvist made 31 saves while the sole goal came from Wojtek Wolski, acquired this week from Phoenix. He knocked in a rebound on the power play at 7:18 of the second period.

Bruins 7, Flyers 5

In Boston, the hosts piled on five goals in the third-period to overwhelm Philadelphia.

In a game that featured five lead changes, Brad Marchand tied it 5-5 and Steve Kampfer gave the Bruins the lead for good when he slapped in a shot that went inside the right post past a stunned Brian Boucher. Gregory Campbell added an empty-net goal to cap the scoring.

Earlier, Mark Recchi and Michael Ryder put Boston up 4-3 early in the third, only for Danny Briere and Sean O'Donnell to score in a 53-second span to give the Flyers a 5-4 advantage.

Zdeno Chara and Patrice Bergeron scored the earlier goals for Boston, which has won three straight.

Jeff Carter, Nikolay Zherdev and Scott Hartnell also scored for Philadelphia, which had its winning streak snapped at four.

Blues 3, Kings 1

In Los Angeles, St. Louis posted its first win in six games, defeating Los Angeles. Rookie Ryan Reaves put St. Louis ahead with his second NHL goal, Jaroslav Halak made 24 saves, while B.J. Crombeen and Alexander Steen also scored for the Blues.

Michal Handzus scored for Los Angeles, which has lost seven of eight.

In Sunrise, Florida, the home team edged Nashville, halting the Predators' winning run at six games.

David Booth score the go-ahead goal with 4:12 left, after Rotislav Olesz and Radek Dvorak also scored.

David Legwand had a goal and an assist for Nashville, and Colin Wilson also scored. Coyotes 5, Maple Leafs 1

In Glendale, Arizona, Shane Doan scored the first of four third-period goals that pushed Phoenix to a comfortable win over Toronto.

Radim Vrbata, Taylor Pyatt, Lauri Korpikoski and Keith Yandle also scored as the Coyotes made it five wins from six games.

Toronto's Colby Armstrong got his team's sole goal with 3:52 left as the Leafs' winning



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30), of Sweden, celebrates with teammates after an NHL hockey game against the Vancouver Canucks, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011, in New York. The Rangers won the game 1-0.

streak stopped at four. In Buffalo, Cody McCormick scored the go-ahead goal, got into a fight and drew a key penalty in Buffalo's victory over Carolina.

Drew Stafford and Nathan Gerbe also scored to help Buffalo improve to 5-1-1 in its past seven.

Tuomo Ruutu and rookie Jeff Skinner, with 32 seconds remaining, scored for Carolina, which had a three-game winning streak snapped and lost in regulation for the first time in its past nine. In San Jose, rookie star Taylor Hall scored twice to help

Edmonton defeat San Jose.

Devan Dubnyk made 41 saves while Dustin Penner, Andrew Coglian and Linus Omark also scored Edmonton, which had lost its previous three on the road.

In other NHL games it was

Associated Press

Boston 7, Philadelphia 5; Buffalo 3, Carolina 2; Ottawa 6, N.Y. Islanders 4; N.Y. Rangers 1, Vancouver 0; Florida 3, Nashville 2; Phoenix 5, Toronto 1; St. Louis 3, Los Angeles 1; and Edmonton 5, San Jose 2. □

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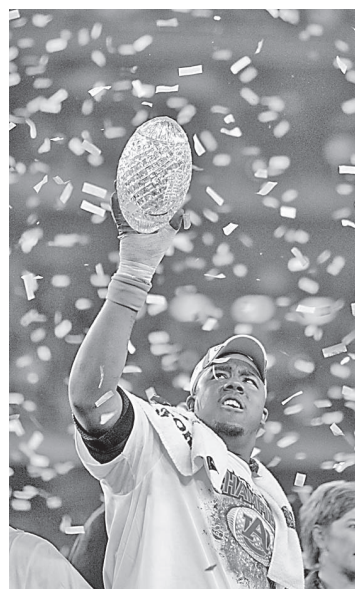
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Won and done: Auburn QB Cam Newton to enter draft



In this Dec. 11, 2011, file photo, Auburn quarterback Cam Newton holds the trophy during a news conference after winning the Heisman award, in New York. Newton will forgo his senior season and make himself eligible for the 2011 National Football League Draft.

Associated Press



Auburn's Nick Fairley celebrates with the Coaches' Trophy after beating Oregon 22-19 in the BCS National Championship NCAA college football game Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

By **JOHN ZENOR**

AP Sports Writer

MOBILE, Ala. — Nick Fairley, Auburn's other big-name star, also is heading to the NFL after winning the Lombardi Award and helping Cam Newton lead the Tigers to a national title.

The potential No. 1 overall pick announced his decision Friday at his old high school, saying he didn't make up his

By **JOHN ZENOR**

AP Sports Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton will skip his senior season and enter the NFL draft after leading Auburn to a national championship and drawing nearly as much attention for a pay-for-play scandal as for his dynamic performances.

Auburn released a statement Thursday night announcing the quarterback's decision following his lone year as a major college starter. Newton led the Tigers to their first national title since 1957 and a 14-0 season with a 22-19 victory over Oregon on Monday night.

"This decision was difficult for me and my family," Newton said, adding that he made it after talking to coach Gene Chizik and offensive coordinator Gus

Malzahn.

"It's been a blessing for me to be a part of something so great," he said. "Any time you win games it's a big deal, but for this school to win a BCS national championship, what a way to make people happy. Auburn is a special place that I can call home."

The former backup to Tim Tebow at Florida arrived after leading Blinn College in Texas to a junior college national championship and won on a much bigger stage with the Tigers.

The national champions are waiting on Lombardi Award-winning defensive tackle Nick Fairley to announce his NFL decision on Friday in his hometown of Mobile. Fairley might be the No. 1 overall pick, but the 6-foot-6, 250-pound Newton is the guy that Chizik called "probably the best football player I've ever seen" after the Southeastern Conference championship game.

"We appreciate Cameron's many contributions to Auburn and the outstanding leader that he was for our football team," Chizik said. "He had one of the greatest individual seasons ever by an Auburn player and was a key part of our championship run. Cam will always be a member of the Auburn family and we wish him the best in his future endeavors."

The College Park, Ga., native was chosen the Walter Camp and Associated Press National Player of the Year. Newton also won the Maxwell Award as the nation's top player and the Davey O'Brien Award as the best quarterback.

The dual-threat quarterback brought joy to Auburn, but some troubles also came along with him. He played under a cloud the last two months of the season after reports surfaced that his father, Cecil, shopped his

services during Mississippi State's recruitment of his son.

All that came of it so far is that Auburn declared Newton ineligible the week of the SEC championship game against South Carolina and the NCAA reinstated him a day later. The NCAA said it hasn't closed the case but that it had no evidence at the time that Cam Newton knew about his father's solicitation.

The case may prompt a new addition — call it "Newton's Law" — in the NCAA rule book.

It was prominent and polarizing enough that NCAA president Mark Emmert, speaking at the governing body's annual convention Thursday, called for new rules ensuring that parents can't "sell the athletic services" of their children.

"If you look at the Newton case, a lot of people came away from that, because it's a complicated case, saying, 'Gosh, it's OK for a father to solicit money for the services for his son or daughter?'" Emmert told reporters afterward. "The answer to that is no, it isn't. But we don't have a rule that makes that clear."

On the field, Newton rushed for 1,473 yards and 20 touchdowns while passing for 2,854 yards and 30 TDs. He set Auburn season records for both rushing and passing TDs and total offense and an SEC mark for yards on the ground by a quarterback.

Newton injured his back during the national title game but still passed for 265 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another 64.

He was good enough to prompt South Carolina coach and 1966 Heisman winner Steve Spurrier to marvel: "You can't tackle him. He's almost a one-man show." □

Auburn's Nick Fairley entering NFL draft

mind until that morning after long talks with his coaches and his parents and a solitary drive around his hometown. The deciding factor?

"I was thinking, 'What more could I accomplish my senior year?'" Fairley said.

His decision means Auburn's two most dominant stars won't be back next season. Newton, the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback, said Thursday night that he was entering the draft. The two junior college transfers led the Tigers to a 14-0 season and their first national title since 1957.

Fairley was the defensive MVP in the BCS title game against Oregon when he had a sack, three tackles for losses and forced a fumble. The 6-foot-5, 298-pound All-American defensive tackle also led the Southeastern Conference with 24 tackles for a loss and had a school-record 11.5 sacks.

Fairley said he met with Auburn coach Gene Chizik and defensive line coach Tracy Rocker in Auburn, then

came home Thursday and talked it over with his parents. After that, "I went on a long ride by myself. I think I came out with the best decision to benefit me, my family and all the folks around me."

Fairley played two seasons at Auburn after transferring from junior college, where he redshirted in 2007. He flashed his potential at times in 2009, but didn't consistently dominate until this season.

"It's crazy for me to be in this position," Fairley said. "Coming into this year, I didn't think things were going to be this big. I didn't know I was going to have a big year like that."

If he is taken first in the draft, he would join former Williamson High and LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell as a No. 1 pick from the school.

"Nick emerged into a very dominant player this season and was a key factor for the success of our championship run," Chizik said. □

NFL PREVIEW

It won't be cold in Foxborough, Pittsburgh

BARRY WILNER,

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers-Baltimore Ravens and New England Patriots-New York Jets rivalries turned nasty this week as trash talk inflamed their NFL playoff showdowns.

Jets cornerback Antonio Cromartie called Tom Brady an expletive, then dared the Patriots' star quarterback to make him a target at Foxborough, Massachusetts on Sunday.

Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs donned a T-shirt which insulted the Steelers, then called Saturday's matchup at Heinz Field "World War III."

There's nothing quite so tangy in the NFC, where both games also are rematches. Neither the Atlanta Falcons-Green Bay Packers game on Saturday nor the Chicago Bears-Seattle Seahawks match on Sunday has been accompanied by so many verbals.

Not that you expect everyone to get along as they pursue a spot in the conference title games.

"You shouldn't like who you are going up against right now," Jets coach Rex Ryan said. "This is the playoffs. I can tell you our whole team respects Brady and the Patriots. But hey, we don't like any of them right now. You shouldn't."

"Trust me, the feeling is mutual."

That right, Terrell?

"We're looking forward to walking into Heinz Field with a certain swagger," Suggs said. Presumably, he won't be wearing the T-shirt that displays "HEY PITTSBURGH" and a purple Raven and a hand with the middle finger extended.

"There isn't any message," he insisted. "This is just, like I always say, I put on for my city. They rep their city, and I'm repping mine. So, here we go."

Brady noted he's been called worse than what Cromartie sent his way, and Brady's history is to send lots of passes — completed passes, several for touchdowns — the way of anyone who insults him or his team. Pittsburgh's Anthony Smith challenged the Patriots three years ago, and was victimized by Brady.

"(Coach Bill) Belichick has

called me that, our offensive coordinator has called me that," Brady said. "I know that they (the coaches) like me, so maybe he (Cromartie) really likes me." Big talk aside, the Jets must find a pass rush and need to hold the ball on offense to avoid a repeat of the 45-3 whipping from the Patriots in Foxborough on Dec. 6. New York must start quickly on offense and upset Brady's rhythm with a defense that managed exactly that against the Colts' Peyton Manning last Sunday.

New York relies heavily on the blitz to get pressure on quarterbacks, and on the coverage skills of cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Cromartie. Both will need to be at their stingiest against receivers Wes Welker and Deion Branch, in particular, and someone must clamp down on rookie tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez. That has not been a strength for the Jets this season.

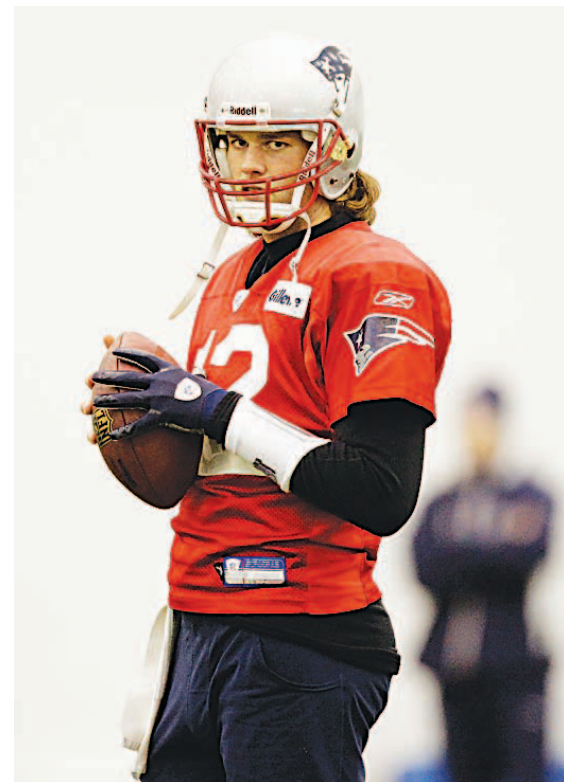
The Ravens have never won in the playoffs at Heinz Field. They did edge the Steelers there 17-14 on Oct. 3, but Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger still was serving his four-game suspension.

Pittsburgh won the rematch in December, 13-10 in a classic defensive battle. This one also should be low-scoring, physical and, at times, brutal. The game-breakers in this one are guys like Suggs, Ed Reed and Ray Lewis for Baltimore, Troy Polamalu, James Harrison and LaMarr Woodley for Pittsburgh. All of them defenders.

"These are the two best defenses, with a lot of exotic-type blitzes and exotic looks," Roethlisberger said. "Both groups are veteran, so it's all about the offense that makes the fewest amount of mistakes."

Green Bay is on a roll, winning its last three games when one loss would have ended its season. The 21-16 victory against Philadelphia was Aaron Rodgers' first in the playoffs as the Packers quarterback, and he performed superbly in a 20-17 loss to Atlanta on Nov. 28.

The Packers' offense has suddenly become versatile thanks to rookie James Starks rushing for 123 yards in Philadelphia. But Atlanta



LEFT: Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) participates in the NFL team's practice in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011. The Steelers host the Baltimore Ravens Jan. 15 in a divisional playoff game. **RIGHT:** New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) during practice at the NFL football team's facility in Foxborough, Mass., Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011. The Patriots will play the New York Jets in an AFC Divisional round playoff game Sunday in Foxborough. **BOTTOM:** Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Matt Cassel, right, is sacked for a 10-yard loss by Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis during the fourth quarter of an NFL AFC wild card football playoff game Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011, in Kansas City, Mo. The Ravens defeated the Chiefs 30-7.

Associated Press

already has that offensive variety with Matt Ryan throwing to Roddy White and Tony Gonzalez, and Michael Turner running the ball. And they were 7-1 at the Georgia Dome this season.

Seattle is brimming with confidence after stunning the Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints last Saturday.

But the Seahawks haven't been a good road team this season, even though they beat Chicago 23-20 in October, their best game of the regular season.

Chicago is healthier than the Saints, has a much better defense, and has improved significantly since falling to the Seahawks, particularly the running game with Matt Forte.

Forte ran for 717 yards over the final nine games, averaging 4.9 yards per carry. He expects to carry a big load on Sunday.

"I don't think we have a choice," Forte said. "We can't go out and do what we did last time and throw the ball 40 or 50 times and run the ball 10 times. We have to have a balanced offense." □

L.T. sees chance to redeem himself in New England

DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Sports Writer

FLORHAM PARK, New Jersey (AP) — LaDainian Tomlinson stared out at the field from behind his dark visor, unable to help his team from his seat on the bench.

It was the AFC Championship game at the New England Patriots in 2008, and the San Diego Chargers running back's pride was hurting just as much as his left knee. Injured a week earlier at Indianapolis, he tried to push through the pain, but lasted just a few plays before heading to the sideline for good while the Chargers lost out on a Super Bowl appearance.

"It was a long shot going into the game with a sprained MCL. I told my guys, 'I'm going to give you everything I have,' but it wasn't much," the New York Jets running back recalled this week.

A lasting image from the Chargers' 21-12 loss at Gillette Stadium is of

Tomlinson sitting, wrapped in an oversized jacket and his helmet still strapped onto his head.

"It was the most frustrating thing I've been through in my career," he said. "Now, it seems like I get a chance to redeem myself."

Three years later and healthy with the Jets, Tomlinson is again headed to Foxborough, Massachusetts for a playoff game — with a trip to the AFC Championship game on the line.

"Having this opportunity," Tomlinson said, smiling, "my hair's going to be on fire."

Last Saturday, Tomlinson had one of the best postseason games of his career, running for 82 yards and two touchdowns while helping the Jets beat the Indianapolis Colts 17-16.

"I feel good," he said. "Obviously, coming off a game like I had last week, it's motivation to continue."

The NFL's all-time sixth-leading rusher is no longer a youngster at 31 years old, and he's well aware that the chances to win a Super Bowl are quickly dwindling.

"This is what you play for, these opportunities," he said.

"As you've heard many people say, this is why you lift all those weights in the offseason and training camp, to have the opportunity to do this." After a bitter divorce from the Chargers last winter, Tomlinson had to battle the perception that he was finished. The Jets and the Minnesota Vikings were the only teams that showed serious interest in him, and Tomlinson chose New York knowing he had plenty to prove despite all the accolades and records.

He wasn't the electrifying L.T. of his prime, but he was plenty productive during the regular season. He led the team with 914 yards rushing, and his 23-yard run against the Colts last week was surprisingly the longest of his playoff career.

"I saw he's fresh, ready to go," coach Rex Ryan said. "When you saw the desire that he has, the passion he's running with, that's what I expect again this week." And, Tomlinson will likely be a major factor in whether the Jets can get past the Patriots this time around. Jets cornerback Antonio Cromartie, who also played four seasons in San Diego with Tomlinson, said: "When



New York Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson (21) reacts after scoring on a 1-yard touchdown run during the fourth quarter of an NFL AFC wild card football playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis, Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011.

Associated Press

you have someone like him you get him to the ultimate on your team, you want to do dream of being in the Super all you can to try to make sure Bowl and getting that ring." □

AP NEWS BREAK

Continued from Page B1

He quotes Riddell's website as saying that "research shows a 31 percent reduction in the risk of concussion in players wearing a Riddell Revolution football helmet when compared to traditional helmets."

"Yet there is actually very little scientific evidence to support the claim," Udall said, adding that the voluntary industry standard for football helmets don't specifically address concussion prevention or reduction.

Riddell and Schutt Sports did not immediately respond to requests for comment Friday.

At the time of Udall's letter, Riddell called his allegations "unfounded and unfair," and Schutt Sports said the company never claimed its helmets were "concussion reducing."

Last fall, Udall asked the Consumer Product Safety Commission to investigate whether safety standards for football helmets are adequate to protect young players from concussions. □



Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison (92) and center Maurkice Pouncey (53) walk from an indoor practice field to the locker room after the NFL team's practice in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011. The Steelers host the Baltimore Ravens Saturday Jan. 15 in a divisional playoff game.

Associated Press

ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — When Cleveland Browns quarterback Colt McCoy ran for 6 yards with barely a minute remaining in a 41-9 loss to Pittsburgh in the first week of January, he prevented the Steelers from something achieved only twice during a 16-

No running allowed against Steelers' defense

game NFL season.

He kept them from allowing fewer than 1,000 yards rushing for an entire season.

Even during one of the most prolific passing seasons in NFL history, 100-yard rushers are commonplace — except against Pittsburgh. The Steelers didn't give up one to an individual all season while allowing a scant 1,004 yards in 16 games.

Only two teams, the New York Jets and New England Patriots, ran for 100 yards against a defense that permitted 62.8 per game, the third-lowest average since the 1970 NFL merger.

Many teams try to establish a running game early against Pittsburgh, fail miserably and abandon the run. The evidence: The Steelers allowed 58 yards rushing or fewer seven times. The 333 attempts were the fewest in any NFL full season — 14-game or 16-game — since 1970.

"Nobody tries," Steelers safety Ryan Clark said. "They give up." Running back Ray Rice of the archrival Baltimore Ravens, who meet the Steelers in the playoffs this weekend, is the only opposing back to gain 100 yards in the Steelers' last 50 games — he had 141 during a 23-20 Ravens loss last season — but he gained only 52 on 17 carries against them in two games this season. As a team, the Ravens ran for 113 yards during the season series.

Not even the Steel Curtain defense of the 1970s shut down the run so successfully or so consistently. □

Imagining Windows 8: Embedded Xbox, Kinect, and Surface

One of the things that appears clear from some of the changes at Microsoft is that Steve Ballmer is pulling down some of the traditional siloes, and forcing groups to work together more closely. On stage at CES, Steve showcased four products, Windows 7 with an ARM future, Windows Phone 7, Xbox Kinect, and Surface. While he didn't specifically talk about the new Windows 8 (the name for the next generation of Windows has not yet been decided),

the proximity of these technologies has many of us wondering whether Windows 8 could be the Mother of all Microsoft OS offerings.

This is purely speculative, as none of what we'll be covering has been announced. Let's have some fun thinking about the next version of Windows today.

When the latest version of Xbox first came out, it was a powerhouse of technology, but over the last four years there are relatively low

cost PCs that could easily outperform it. Microsoft has a huge virtualized system push, and because the money in a gaming system is in game and accessories subsidies not in selling hardware, you would think that the firm would have created a Virtualized Xbox experience for the PC. In fact, Microsoft does have an Xbox experience Windows Phone 7, and while it doesn't play the same games, the company didn't bring out a dedicated hand held gaming platform.

Idea 'theft' rampant in mobile gaming

It's been a week of bad blood between game developers, and it's all (kind of) because of the iTunes App Store.

A controversy of angry Internet community proportions occurred during the last few days between various developers and LimaSky, the company behind the very popular Doodle Jump. Developers got to talking to one another in forums over a mobile gaming website, and before long, it came out that many developers of games with "doodle" in the title had been contacted by LimaSky about changing the names of their games because of potential trademark infringement.

As is usually the case with situations like this one, forum posters and other Internet users backed the indie developers and blamed the bigger, more successful LimaSky for trying to muscle the little guys. LimaSky owns a trademark for "Doodle Jump," but not for just the word "doodle," and so indies (perhaps rightly) have been feeling attacked over properties like Doodle Hockey and any of the other 650 or so doodle-themed games in the App Store.

LimaSky responded in a statement at PocketGamer.biz and has apparently withdrawn any claims against the word "doodle" as it relates to trademark infringement. □

Google Tightens Apps' Uptime Guarantee

Google is modifying its Apps service level agreement in ways that increase the company's accountability whenever the hosted collaboration and communication software experiences downtime, the company plans to announce on Friday.

Google's uptime commitment remains at 99.9 percent for the Business and Education versions of the suite, but the company will now log every moment of downtime, whereas before it only counted outages of 10 or more consecutive minutes.

In addition, downtime due to planned maintenance work will now count against the SLA guarantee. Previously, planned maintenance outages were exempted from the SLA. These moves are the latest by Google to make Apps for Business more attractive to large enterprises, a market the company has been aggressively pursuing in the



past year.

As it tries to woo CIOs, Google faces stiff competition from enterprise e-mail and collaboration heavyweights Microsoft and IBM's Lotus division. Google Apps' initial focus was on small business and individuals, but Google has been progressively adding security, reliability and management features that enterprise IT departments require.

In 2010, Gmail specifically achieved a 99.984 percent uptime rate both for consumers

and professionals who use it as part of Apps, Google said.

The company didn't provide the uptime of the other core Google Apps components, such as Calendar, Docs, Sites and Video, which are also covered by the 99.9 percent uptime guarantee in the Business and Education editions.

Google Apps for Business, formerly called Premier, costs US\$50 per user per year, while Google Apps for Education and the standard Apps edition are free. □



So, might Microsoft not revisit what it did with the PC, and bring it more in line with what it's doing for Windows Phone 7 and the Zune MP3 players?

You might think this was a long shot, but one of the product features at CES was the Origin gaming PC which has an integrated, wait for it, Xbox inside. This is one cool system in that all core components, including the Xbox, are watercooled. They went on for some time about why both gamers and professionals liked the idea of an Xbox and a PC in the same box. It could have been a hint of things to come.

Kinect Touch on PCs has never been a very good way to interface with them, largely because on a desktop PC, the issue is the separate monitor

and the lack of touch-enabled monitors. On laptops, pushing on the screen tends to cause the laptop to tilt back, leaving the most successful use of touch to tablets so far. But Kinect doesn't require you touch anything, and folks are already experimenting with Kinect on PCs for people with disabilities, and making a lot of progress. It would be a relatively inexpensive additional interface, with clear advantages where PCs are used for presentations or gaming. It would be particularly for manipulating 3D objects, like for CAD/CAM, architecture, or hardware design. This interface could prove to be superior to the alternatives.

This may seem like a stretch, but Steve Ballmer actually said this was coming. □

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New box set to showcase Franklin's Columbia years



NEW YORK — Aretha Franklin's unheralded recordings at Columbia Records will get another perspective with an expansive 12-disc box set that makes the argument that the Queen of Soul was already royalty before her career-defining hits at Atlantic Records.

"The conventional wisdom is that Columbia failed to see that this was a singular artist with a universal vision, that her

'Skins': A raw, entertaining drama about teenage

NEW YORK — The new MTV series "Skins" relies on time-tested themes of adolescent drama.

Such as: Teenagers are remarkably horny. They are all great-looking, even the outcasts — and gorgeously thin, with exceptions made only for comic relief. And all adults or other authority figures are foolish, tyrannical or out-to-lunch.

These rules were in place at least 50 years ago, when Troy Donahue was bird-dogging Connie Stevens in "Palm Springs Weekend."

Of course, much has changed since then in the lives of teens, and "Skins" is pleased to catalog their ramped-up cavorting and angst. But this show may not be quite as representative of modern life as it would have you believe. For one thing, it's an exercise in very select sampling.

Who cares? A sexy, no-apologies slice of contemporary teen life, "Skins" is fun to watch. It's a sassy, gritty tour through teenage wasteland. And it manages to find surprises in the familiar litany of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

It's even won a reverse salute from the Parents Television Council, which on Thursday blasted MTV for marketing the show to a teenage audience (who else would it be marketed to?) and declared, "'Skins' may well be the most dangerous television show for children that we have ever seen."

Believe me, "Skins" is dangerous for us long-past-adolescent viewers, too. Watching it, we might reasonably despair that teens have exclusive claim on both thrills and misery. We get nothing.

Premiering Monday at 10 p.m. EST, "Skins" is based on the hit British series of the same name, co-created by Bryan Elsley and his then-teenage son, Jamie Brittain.

Like the original, the U.S. "Skins" stars a troupe of fresh faces, many of them first-time actors who the show boasts are all actually teenagers. They are excellent, and despite their reliable beauty (even the nerd is fashion-model scruffy), they smack of human authenticity, rather than stereotypes.

Set in a dreary Northeast city with a bustling high school,

material was mismatched with her talent, that her arrangers were too heavy-handed," said Leo Sacks, producer of "Take a Look: Aretha Franklin Complete on Columbia," due out March 22.

"There were enough moments at Columbia where it's clear that she came very close to catching the moment, and I think the listener is going to have to make their own judgment to see whether her Columbia years have been unfairly diminished."

Franklin, 68, arrived at Columbia in 1960, when she was 18 years old. There, she recorded jazz and pop standards, and music historians have often dismissed her work at the label in comparison to her explosion five years later at Atlantic Records, where she recorded her biggest hits, like "Respect," and became known as the Queen of Soul.

The box set of 11 music CDs and one DVD takes listeners through songs like "Take a Look," "Unforgettable" and "Ol' Man River." Though some material is unreleased and includes rehearsal and alternate takes, Sacks acknowledges that much of it has been previously released.

"Aretha's Columbia years have been picked over more times than a Barney's warehouse sale, and there isn't anything in this collection that hasn't been worn previously," he joked this week. "But there are enough unexpected surprises in these CDs, including many rare mono mixes and unissued performances, that show how close she came to stardom."

Franklin has recently undergone surgery for an ailment she hasn't disclosed, but she told talk-show host Wendy Williams this week that her health is "superb." □



"Skins" focuses on nine primary characters who are linked with one another in more ways than speed-dial.

Chris (Jesse Carere) is the lovable, live-for-today party guy. Abbud (Ron Mustafaa) is the fallen Muslim who is game for any kind of mischief. Stanley (Daniel Flaherty) is a scene-stealer as the gangly nerd who still suffers from the heartbreak of virginity as he nears his 17th birthday.

Cadie (Britne Oldford) is downright weird; she shouldn't handle kitchen knives and she ingests more drugs than a cage full of lab rats. Michelle (Rachel Thevenard) is beautiful but insecure. Tea (Sofia Black D'Elia) is a boy-tempting cheerleader who likes girls. Eura (Eleanor Zichy) stays out every night and never seems to utter a word. Daisy (Camille Cresencia-Mills) is the responsible one though that could change and a trumpet-playing prodigy, to boot.

Different episodes in the 10-part season concentrate on different characters, but the premiere introduces the audience to all of them through the eyes of Tony (James Newman), the group's magnetic, glib operator.

Tony is first seen awakening beneath his spider-patterned bedsheets. He grins through his window at the naked wife in the bedroom window next door, who smiles back at him. He jacks up the volume of his music to ear-shattering volume. His father shouts at him, just as he planned.

Soon he's on his way to school and working his cell phone, cycling through the other characters like a taxi dispatcher. □



CBS stands by Charlie Sheen and his hit sitcom

PASADENA, Calif. — The top entertainment executive at CBS said Friday the network is concerned about Charlie Sheen's off-camera behavior but it hasn't affected his work as the star of television's most popular comedy.

"We have a high level of concern," said Nina Tassler, CBS entertainment president. "How can we not?"

The actor's messy personal life has included a wild night that left a New York hotel room in shambles and sent Sheen to a hospital, and a guilty plea last summer to assaulting his wife in Aspen, Colo. Sheen filled gossip pages again by spending last weekend partying in Las Vegas.

Tassler said she has given a great deal of thought to Sheen on a "human level," but the situation can't be viewed simplistically. The actor does his job reliably well on "Two and a Half Men," she said.

A reporter suggested a person in a different line of work would be fired for involvement in similar incidents.

"What do you get fired for? Going to work and doing your job?" Tassler asked.

Sheen's Monday night program has increased its audience by 2 percent over last season, the Nielsen Co. said. He signed a new two-year contract at the end of last season that makes him one of the highest-paid actors on prime-time television. CBS respects the way Warner Bros. Television, the producer of "Two and a Half Men" and Sheen's actual employer, has been handling the situation, Tassler said.

"This show is a hit," she said. "That's all we have to say." □

BUSINESS**Aruba TODAY**

A Housing Rebound Won't Lift the Economy

The housing market may start crawling up from rock bottom this year. Even if it does, though, any rebound is likely to be anemic. "There's a good chance of a housing turnaround this year, but it's not going to be enough to give much help to the economy," says Karl Case, the co-creator of the S&P/Case-Shiller indexes that track U.S. home prices.

"We're coming off 50-year lows, and we still have to deal with the foreclosure mess."

On Jan. 8, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court upheld a judge's decision that two foreclosures were invalid because the banks seeking to foreclose didn't prove they owned the mortgages. Joshua Rosner, an analyst at research firm Graham Fisher, called the decision "a landmark ruling" that "is likely to open the floodgates to more suits in Massachusetts and strengthens cases in other states."

Delaying foreclosures impedes the housing recovery, says Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics (NYSE:MCO - News). That's because as long as there is the threat of more foreclosed homes coming onto the market, buyers will be hesitant as they anticipate prices falling further. "By the end of this year the housing crash could be over," he says. "Or, if we see foreclosures pushed into next year, we might not see a recovery till the end of 2012."

Housing was the workhorse of the U.S. economy before the end of the real estate boom. So-called fixed residential investment, a measure of homebuilding activity, contributed half a percentage point to gross domestic product growth in 2004, an 18-year high that outstripped defense spending's contribution, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In 2005, housing accounted for 6.1 percent of economic activity in the U.S. Last year inflation-adjusted investment in new homes probably subtracted 0.17 percentage points from GDP, based on the average of 2010's first three quarters.

This year housing investment is expected to increase 9.6 percent, according to the median forecast of 30 economists at a symposium hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in December. That would still leave it at the second-lowest level in 15 years of BEA data, after 2010. The economists expect it to account for 2.6 percent of the economy.

New-home sales likely fell to 321,000 last year, the lowest going back to 1963, according to a forecast by Fannie Mae (fnma.ob.OB), and sales of existing homes may have fallen to 4.82 million. Final numbers for 2010 come out later this month. □

How to Make Multigenerational Living Work

Putting three generations under one roof--the most common multigenerational living arrangement--has become a growth industry of the recession and an aging society. Even as the economy slowly recovers, experts expect that more seniors will find themselves in such expanded families. The mortgage crisis and collapse of home values may retard new home formations for years. Rising numbers of older Americans will require caregivers, and will either be unable to afford private care or unable to find professionals who provide it.

Before World War II, about 25 percent of Americans were in multigenerational households. After the war, rising affluence and a mobile society led to a steady decline. "In 2008, an estimated 49 million Americans, or 16 percent of the total U.S. population, lived in a family household that contained at least two adult generations or a grandparent and at least one other generation," the Pew



Research Center reported in a study last year. "In 1980, this figure was just 28 million, or 12 percent of the population." In 2008 alone, 2.6 million Americans became part of multigenerational households. "Back in the 1940s and 1950s, the common advice was to cut what was called 'the silver cord,'" says Stephanie Coontz, a professor of history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. "Don't take your parents in, experts warned. Don't even remain very close to them. Focus on your own nuclear families." "Those years were the low point in all of American

history in the percentage of multigenerational households, as well as in favorable attitudes toward them," adds Coontz, who also works with the nonprofit Council on Contemporary Families. "I think that there has been a rediscovery of the importance of intergenerational ties in recent years, partly perhaps because marriages have become more fragile, partly because adult kids often delay marriage long enough so that they socialize more with their parents in their 20s, and partly because more democratic and individualized child-rearing values have led to a greater sense of closeness." □

Pump prices eyed as reason Americans driving less



More motorists are sticking closer to home this month but that hasn't stopped pump prices from climbing.

At the moment, there are a number of reasons for Americans to drive less. They could be huddling in front of fireplaces against icy winter blasts that have blanketed much of the country. They could be diverting money to pay off holiday bills. Or, they could be restricting non-essential driving and purchases because of rising pump prices.

Analysts are closely watching economic news and consumer sentiment to determine if it's the

latter. If gas prices are influencing consumer habits, that could affect the pace of the economy in the months ahead.

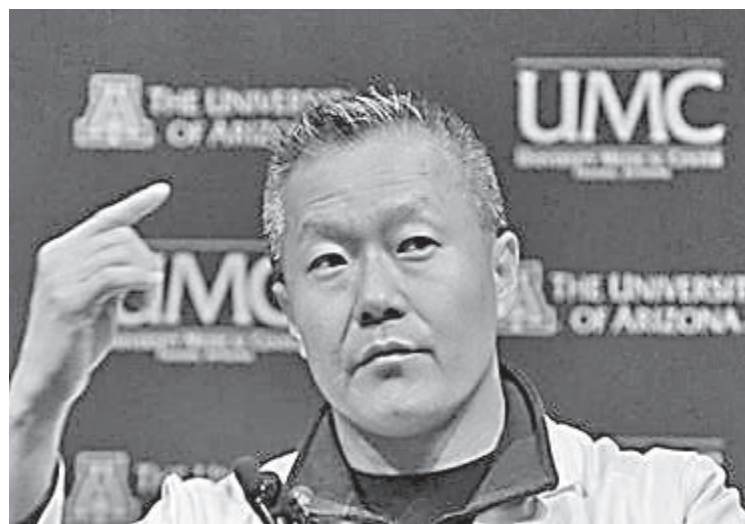
Drivers are "pulling back on gas right now but you can't tell whether it's weather-related," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service. "Unless you're in Boca Raton, Fla., or San Diego, you're seeing pretty sleepy midwinter demand."

Consumer prices rose last month by the largest amount since June 2009. Gasoline prices accounted for about 80 percent of the increase, the Labor Department said Friday. The gasoline index jumped 8.5 percent in December. Gas prices rose from about \$2.86 a gallon on Dec. 1 to \$3.07 at year's end. The price continues to rise, although at a slower pace.

The national average for unleaded regular gasoline was \$3.095 a gallon Friday, according to Wright Express, AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's up nearly 34 cents from a year ago. □



Giffords' doctors balancing role as rock stars



TUCSON, Ariz. – One is an irrepressible South Korea native who has treated some of the most horrific wartime injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan. The other is a reserved neurosurgeon who happens to be the brother-in-law of television show host Dr. Oz.

Together, they have stood in their white lab coats before a gaggle of TV cameras every morning to update the nation about their highest-profile patient to date: Rep. Gabrielle

Giffords, who was critically wounded after being shot point-blank in the head last weekend.

It's a role both are still getting used to.

Veteran trauma surgeon Dr. Peter Rhee is boisterous, using phrases like "101 percent" survival to describe Giffords' prognosis. His willingness to share day-to-day details about her progress and his joking demeanor is a draw to those tuning in for the latest signs of improvement.

The yin to Rhee's yang, neurosurgeon Dr. Michael Lemole is more measured. He speaks of Giffords' recovery with caveats and has declined to speculate on the one question everyone wants to know: what her life might look like down the road.

Lemole said their differences in approach have a lot to do with their backgrounds. Military doctors tend to measure success in number of lives saved whereas a brain doctor cares about the quality of life after survival.

"Rather than say, 'Woo-hoo, we won,' I say, 'OK, we've crossed this hurdle. Now let's shoot for the next one,'" he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Despite their different personalities, both are closely involved in Giffords' care, checking up on her and her family several times a day.

Both doctors were away from University Medical Center the city's only trauma center

capable of treating the most seriously injured when they got word Giffords had been shot.

Lemole had just finished a golf lesson with one of his sons. While driving in to the hospital, he heard a false report on the radio that Giffords had died.

"The first gut-wrenching feeling was, 'Oh my gosh. I'm going in and there's nothing I can do,'" Lemole recalled. He quickly brushed the thought aside and speed-dialed one of his residents, who told him Giffords was still breathing.

Rhee was jogging three miles from his home and turned back to rush to the hospital. He credited his staff and his experience in the battlefield, where he had few supplies, for his quick treatment of the congresswoman and the other victims.

He was confident Giffords would survive after learning that she had been able to squeeze a doctor's hand when

she arrived at the hospital, something most gunshot victims can't do.

"She was alive at that time," Rhee said. "If she comes to me alive, I can keep her alive."

Giffords remains in critical condition after Saturday's brain surgery, but has been making remarkable progress. She opened her eyes for the first time Wednesday shortly after President Barack Obama visited her bedside en route to a memorial for the shooting victims.

Before the memorial, a roaring crowd gave the doctors and their families a standing ovation. Their faces were projected on a big screen and Rhee was spied posing for photos with fans.

The doctors have received a flood of thank-you e-mails and letters of support from strangers around the country. Rhee said he has even received scores of Facebook friend requests, which he hasn't answered. □

The More You Walk, the Lower Your Diabetes Risk

The more you walk, the lower your risk of diabetes, say Australian researchers.

The scientists tracked 592 middle-aged adults who participated in a study to map diabetes levels across Australia between 2000 and 2005. Participants underwent a health examination at the start of the study and provided details about their eating and lifestyle habits.

The volunteers were also given a pedometer and instructed how to use it.

Follow-up with the participants five years later showed that a higher daily step count was associated with a lower body-mass index (BMI), lower waist-to-hip ratio and better insulin sensitivity, even after adjusting for factors such as diet, smoking and alcohol intake.

These associations were independent of calorie intake and appeared to be largely

due to a change in weight, said the researchers at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne.

They calculated that a sedentary person who changed his or her behavior and started walking 10,000 steps every day would achieve a threefold improvement in insulin sensitivity, compared with a similar person who walked 3,000 steps a day, five days a week. The 10,000 steps per day is a popular guideline, but a more recent recommendation is 3,000 steps per day, five days a week.

"These findings, confirming an independent beneficial role of higher daily step count on body-mass index, waist-to-hip ratio and insulin sensitivity, provide further support to promote higher physical activity levels among middle-aged adults," the researchers concluded in a news release. □

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The Neanderthal Nose Enigma: Why So Big?



A mystery of Neanderthals for more than a century is one that's literally as plain as the noses on their faces - why did they have such big schnozes? One common answer suggests their faces somehow helped our extinct relatives deal with the extreme cold they faced. Now, however, scientists find that Neanderthal faces were not built for the cold - meaning that no one still knows why Neanderthals had such noses. The enigma that such a large nose poses is that it seems like an excellent way to lose heat - a paradox, given that Neanderthals lived when glaciers dominated Europe. Modern humans and other animals, in contrast, typically have evolved significantly narrower, longer noses in cold climates. [The Many Mysteries of Neanderthals] Scientists have tried solving this mystery by suggesting there were equally giant sinuses behind the broad noses. Some proposed the

sinuses helped warm the air before it entered the lungs so Neanderthals were able to keep their bodies warm. Others speculated the sinuses actually had the exact opposite function, helping Neanderthals rid their bodies of heat, preventing them from drenching in sweat that could have cooled them off even more.

“The \$64,000 question is what sinuses do - that is, what is their biological function. Scientists have been arguing over that for hundreds of years,” researcher Todd Rae, a paleoanthropologist at Roehampton University in London, wrote in an e-mail. “There are dozens of suggestions for what they may do for the animals that have them, including adding resonance to the voice and acting as flotation devices!”

To learn more about what role sinuses might have played in Neanderthals, Rae and his colleagues analyzed X-rays

and CT scans of several Neanderthal skulls. They found Neanderthal sinuses were actually comparable in scale with those of modern humans and not unusually large or small.

In contrast, they had previously discovered that sinuses get smaller in the cold in both macaque monkeys and rats.

These findings suggest that scientists no longer have to do “philosophical and logical backflips” to explain how their noses and sinuses might have aided Neanderthals for a life in the cold. Neanderthals’ researchers hint they didn’t, Rae told LiveScience. It could be there was no special reason why their noses were unusually broad, Rae said they could have just evolved that way randomly.

"I would agree with their overall conclusion that the differences between Neanderthals and modern human faces do not appear in general to be adaptations to extreme cold climates," said paleoanthropologist Tim Weaver at the University of California, Davis, who did not take part in this research. "That doesn't mean that smaller features might not be shaped by cold climate. The projection of the nose of Neanderthals is very pronounced, and we see that characteristic in present-day humans who have ancestry in cold climates. Whether that's due to cold climate is unclear, but it's at least consistent."

"One of the things that's really fascinating about Neanderthals is that they are perhaps the most closely related species to humans that have ever lived, and in that way can help us really understand the evolutionary forces that shaped us," Weaver added. □



Rains worsen Sri Lanka flood havoc

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka Fresh rains Friday compounded the misery of the million-plus victims of Sri Lanka's deadly floods, as relief workers struggled to bring crucial supplies to the worst-affected regions.

After a brief respite overnight, renewed downpours battered the island's central and eastern districts where 27 people have been killed by the flood waters and mudslides.

“The situation is clearly worsening,” said Paula Alvarado, a regional spokesman for the International Federation of the Red Cross.

“Landslides continue to occur in the hilly provinces and many dams are threatening to burst. We already have over one million people affected and that number is likely to increase quickly,” Alvarado said.

Some 3,000 soldiers have been deployed to help with the relief efforts, along with trucks and air force helicopters, as UN convoys have battled to bring supplies in by road.

A large number of those forced out of their homes had only recently been resettled after decades of ethnic conflict between Tamil Tiger rebels and government forces.

And many had also seen their livelihoods wrecked before by the December 2004 Asian tsunami.

“Many families were just returning home after years of displacement,” said Reza Hossaini, country representative for the UN children’s agency, UNICEF.

“They were rebuilding their lives, children were returning to their community schools, and now they all face this latest severe setback,” Hossaini said.

Seven trucks loaded with UNICEF supplies, including water tanks, tarpaulins, chlorine tablets, sleeping mats and cooking gear, managed to reach the eastern districts of Ampara and Batticaloa late Thursday.

Residents of Batticaloa, a major rice-growing area, said it was the worst flooding in living memory.

“I have never seen anything like this before,” said farmer H.A.D. Jinadasa. “It will take months to recover. I have lost everything, my fields and farm machinery.”

S. Kokulan, a village official who had turned a local school into a welfare centre, said more than 3,000 people had come looking for help and shelter, although the school building was itself partially flooded. □

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Presidente chileno Piñera realiza primer cambio ministerial

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - El presidente chileno, Sebastián Piñera, acordó el viernes realizar su primer cambio de Gabinete para afrontar un año marcado por reformas clave y en medio de una baja en su popularidad.

El cambio de Gabinete ocurre un día después de que el ministro de Defensa, Jaime Ravinet, presentara su renuncia y se convirtiera en la primera baja desde que el mandatario llegó al poder en marzo del año pasado.

“Todos los futuros ministros jurarán y asumirán sus carteras este domingo”, dijo la portavoz del Gobierno, Ena von Baer, al detallar los cambios.

Recientes sondeos muestran un sensible descenso en la

aprobación al mandatario, que en su primer año de Gobierno enfrentó las consecuencias de un devastador terremoto en febrero del 2010 y el exitoso rescate de 33 mineros atrapados por más de dos meses bajo tierra. “Los cambios buscan solucionar problemas estratégicos, como en el caso de las carteras de Energía y Minería, mientras intentan acallar las críticas de su coalición de Gobierno, entregando dos ministerios a partidarios”, dijo Guillermo Holzmann, analista político de la Universidad de Valparaíso. El ajuste ministerial ordenado por Piñera, un multimillonario de centro-derecha, incluye la salida de los actuales ministros de Transporte y Trabajo y la decisión de

encargar al titular de Minería, Laurence Golborne, la cartera de Energía.

Golborne, actualmente uno de los políticos con más alta popularidad en el país sudamericano, tendrá que enfrentar una dura crisis en el extremo sur del país por la eliminación de un subsidio al gas para la población.

El nuevo titular de Defensa será Andrés Allamand, un abogado y senador de una región sureña por el partido Renovación Nacional, uno de los integrantes de la coalición de Gobierno.

En tanto, la nueva ministra del Trabajo, Evelyn Matthei, es una economista y se desempeñaba actualmente como senadora por el conservador partido Unión Demócrata Independiente (UDI), otro miembro de la alianza oficialista. El nombre del ministro de Transporte sería informado posteriormente, agregó Von Baer. □



Imagen de archivo del presidente chileno, Sebastián Piñera. REUTERS/Eliseo Fernandez

Baja apoyo a democracia en Dominicana

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - Menos dominicanos confían en la democracia, según un estudio que atribuye el retroceso a las consecuencias de la crisis financiera internacional, la corrupción e inseguridad.

El estudio “Cultura política de la democracia en República Dominicana”, del Barómetro de las Américas, detalla que menos del 69% están de acuerdo con el sistema democrático en comparación con el casi 75% que lo estaba en el 2008.

Quienes “han sido víctimas de corrupción o de la delincuencia o que perciben que hay alta delincuencia o alta corrupción tienden a apoyar menos la democracia”, explicó la politóloga Rosario Espinal, coautora de la investigación realizada por la entidad Barómetro de las Américas, por encargo de la estadounidense Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional.

La encuesta constó de 1.500 entrevistas realizadas en febrero de 2010 por la firma Gallup, con un margen de error de 2.5 puntos porcentuales. Aunque el gobierno dominicano insiste que, pese a la crisis, la economía creció 3,5% en 2009 y 7,8% en 2010, el 41,1% de los entrevistados aseguró que sus ingresos se redujeron en los dos últimos años y 22,4% aseguró que al menos un integrante de su hogar perdió el empleo en ese periodo. El ministerio del Trabajo informó la semana pasada que el 30% de la población económicamente activa tiene un empleo fijo y de ese grupo, el 51% percibe menos de 10.000 pesos (270 dólares) al mes. La crisis financiera global también tuvo un impacto directo en los bolsillos de los dominicanos, ya que las remesas, que llegan al 22,5% de los encuestados por el Barómetro de las Américas, se redujeron en más del 13%, según cifras del Banco Mundial. Un 27% de los encuestados dijo que un miembro de su hogar fue víctima de la delincuencia en el año. Con 77,6 puntos, de una escala de 100 en el que 0 es menos corrupto, República Dominicana también se ubica entre los países de la región en la que su población percibe mayor corrupción. □

Muertos por inundaciones en Brasil superan los 500

TERESOPOLIS, Brasil (Reuters) - Los socorristas descubrieron más víctimas el viernes bajo montañas de lodo y casas destruidas, con lo que la cifra de muertos por lluvias torrenciales y grandes inundaciones en Brasil superó las 500 personas, en el peor desastre natural en el país.

Torrentes de lodo y agua arrasaron con todo a su paso en ciudades de la región montañosa Serrana fuera de Río de Janeiro, echando abajo casas, lanzando automóviles sobre edificios y dejando a más de 10.000 personas damnificadas.

La amplitud de los daños dejó en evidencia grandes defectos en la planificación de emergencia y la prevención de desastres en un país que aspira a obtener estatus de nación desarrollada en los próximos años.

El desastre también remarcó los enormes desafíos que la nueva presidenta, Dilma Rousseff, enfrenta mientras intenta mejorar la decrepita infraestructura de Brasil antes de organizar el Mundial de fútbol 2014 y los Juegos Olímpicos dos años después.

La policía militar fue desplegada en el área tras reportes de saqueos de comida en tiendas y robos de enseres en hogares.

Al menos 535 personas murieron por las inundaciones en un puñado de ciudades, algunas de ellas populares destinos turísticos, a alrededor de 100 kilómetros al norte de Río de Janeiro, y dejaron a más de 13.500 damnificados, según autoridades locales y estatales.

“El número de muertes va a aumentar bastante.

Aún hay mucha gente enterrada”, dijo el teniente Rubens Placido, un bombero de la golpeada ciudad de Nova Friburgo, quien agregó que las lluvias continuas complican los esfuerzos de búsqueda y rescate.

Las lluvias fueron intermitentes el viernes y se pronostican más precipitaciones para el fin de semana. El desastre es la primera gran prueba para Rousseff, una funcionaria pública de carrera que nunca ocupó un puesto de elección popular antes de jurar como presidenta el 1 de enero. □



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